



SPECIAL CROSSOVER ISSUE!

ACTION

COMICS WEEKLY

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THE CRASH OF '88!

STARRING:
SUPERMAN • GREEN LANTERN
BLACK CANARY • BLACKHAWK



"THE SKY WAS PITCH BLACK AND WE WERE BUCKING A HEADWIND THAT MADE TOTO'S TORNADO LOOK LIKE A BALMY TROPICAL BREEZE."

"RAIN, SLEET, DEAD OF NIGHT --MAYBE STEPHEN KING GETS OFF ON THAT STUFF, BUT I COULDN'T STAND IT."

"THE STORM WASN'T OUR ONLY PROBLEM. OUR FUEL WAS LOW, WE HAD AN OIL LEAK IN ENGINE #2, AND ALL I COULD GET ON THE AM/FM WAS SOME KIND OF SOUTH AMERICAN MANILLO CLOWE."

"FEELINGS AGAIN? YOU'D THINK MERLE HAGGARD WAS A STATE SECRET DOWN HERE!"

THANK HEAVEN FOR SMALL FAVORS.

"I CROSSED MY FINGERS--A TRICK IN THICK LEATHER GLOVES--AND DOUBLE CHECKED OUR FLIGHT PLAN."

"WITH A LITTLE LUCK--AND ONE MORE PIT STOP--I FIGURED WE'D MAKE REYES BAY BY MORNING."

"THAT'S WHEN THEY OPENED FIRE. ANY NUMBER OF FOUR-LETTER WORDS CAME TO MIND, BUT 'LUCK' WAS NOT AMONG THEM."

"YESSIR--NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE TO BRIGHTEN UP AN OTHERWISE LUNEVENTFUL FLIGHT."

"THE WIND TORE THROUGH THE COCKPIT LIKE A HURRICANE--I KNEW THERE WAS A REASON FOR WEARING THOSE RIDICULOUS OLD 'PILOT' GOBBLES."

I'LL CHECK ON KENDALL. HOLD HER STEADY!

GOT IT!

"JUST ANOTHER PAGE OUT OF MY WORLD WAR II DIARY. LIKE THAT PARACHUTE DROP INTO GERMANY BACK IN '44, OR THOSE WARS I MET IN OCCUPIED FRANCE--"

CHAN--WHAT'S HAPPENING?

LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY ON THE GROUND DOESN'T LIKE US.

LOOK, WHATEVER HAPPENS, WE CAN'T LET THESE, UHH, PARTS FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS.

OUR PARTS ARE GOING TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS IF WE TAKE ANY MORE HITS! SURVIVAL FIRST, MISSION LATER--OKAY?

U.S. GOVERNMENT

"YEAH, IT WAS EXACTLY LIKE THE OLD DAYS--EXCEPT THIS WAS 1988. I HADN'T SEEN ACTION LIKE THIS IN DECADES--"

"AND WE WERE GOING DOWN--"

SPRAAKKK

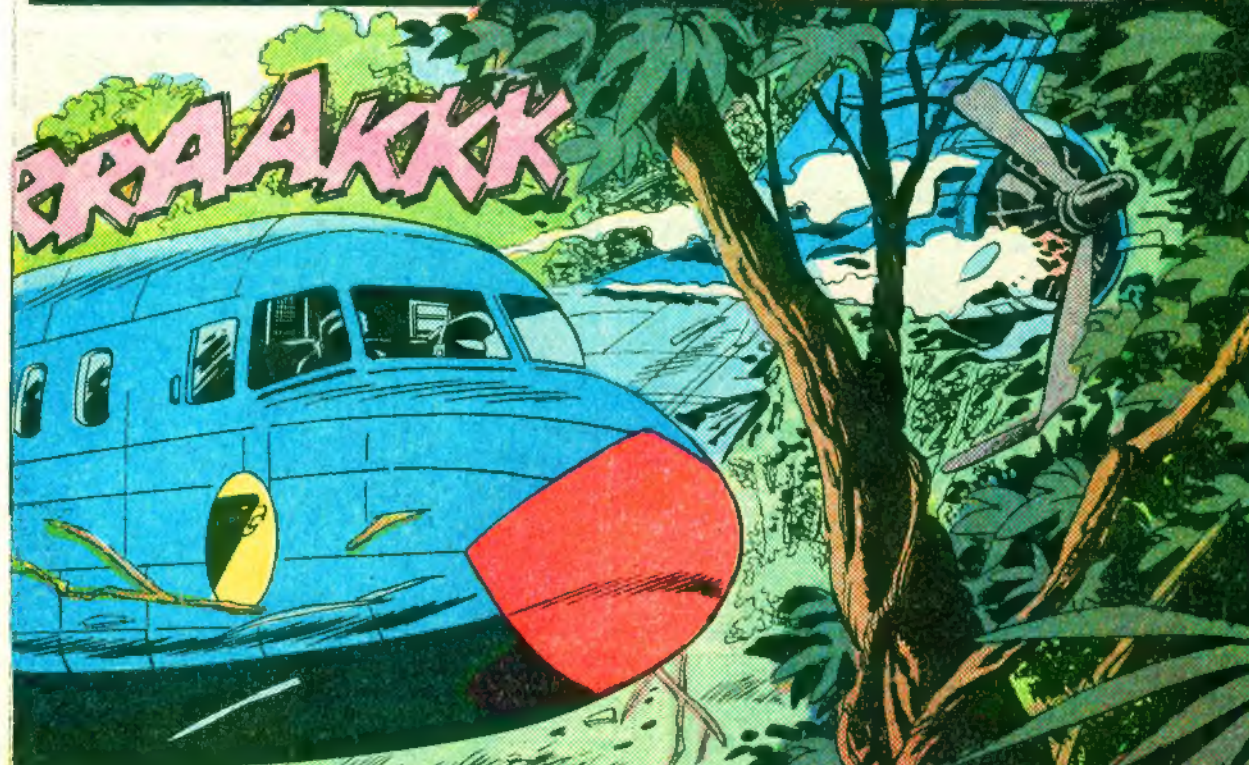
"IRONIC THAT AFTER ALL I'D BEEN THROUGH, I WAS RIGHT BACK WHERE I STARTED--THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM HOME, DOING ACK-ACK FIRE, CHUCKING DEATH'S CHIN WITH A WINK AND A SMILE--"

KENDALL'S SET. WHAT'S THE BAD NEWS?

THREE ENGINES ARE OUT AND NUMBER FOUR LOOKS IFFY--

--AND WHOOPS FUEL LINE MUST HAVE TAKEN A HIT. WE'RE OUT OF GAS.

GOOD, AT LEAST WE WON'T BURN AFTER WE CRASH.



THE CRASH OF 88

MARK VERHEIDEN • EDUARDO BARRETO • JOHN NYBERG • CARRIE SPIEGLE
WRITER • PENCILLER • INKER • LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO • COLORIST • ROBERT GREENBERGER • EDITOR

"I MUST HAVE BEEN OUT A LONG TIME, AND YOU KNOW ME--PLANE CRASH OR NOT, I'M NOT WORTH A DAMN WITHOUT MY MORNING CUP."

COFFEE-- I NEED COFFEE--

"BY RIGHTS ALL THREE OF US SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD. WE WERE LUCKY-- DAMN LUCKY. AS FOR MY AIRPLANE/ MODERN ART SCULPTURE-- WELL, WE COULD ALWAYS USE ANOTHER TAX DEDUCTION."

YOU KNOW, A LITTLE SPIT, SOME ELBOW GREASE AND SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS OF BACKBREAKING LABOR AND THIS THING JUST MIGHT FLY AGAIN!

THE RADIO AND EMERGENCY BEACON ARE SCRAP. SO, KENDALL, WHERE THE HELL ARE WE?

THE CHARTS ARE A MESS, BUT FIGURING FROM OUR LAST CONFIRMED POSITION-- I'D SAY NORTHERN SUMANGO.

IS THAT BAD?

IT'S NOT GOOD. SUMANGO'S MILITARY DICTATOR MAKES IDI AMIN LOOK LIKE MOTHER THERESA.

THANKS. CAPTAIN CHAN'S RIGHT--SUMANGO'S RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS ABYSMAL. THEIR COL. DIAZ HOLDS THE UNIQUE DISTINCTION OF BEING CONDEMNED BY BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION.

YOU KNOW WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND? WHY'D THEY SHOOT AT US?

I MEAN, SURE, WE FLEW OUT OF THE UNITED STATES-- BUT CARGO PLANES FLY OVER SUMANGO EVERY DAY.

I-I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE--MAYBE THEY MISTOOK US FOR SOMEONE ELSE--

"KENDALL COULDN'T HAVE LOOKED GUILTIER IF HE'D CONFESSED AT THE END OF A PERRY MASON EPISODE. I WOULD HAVE PURSUED IT FURTHER, EXCEPT--"

GET DOWN!

SPEED-ION

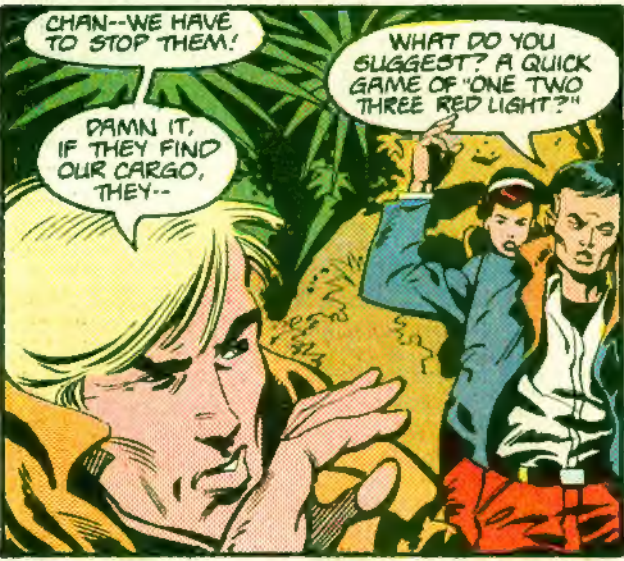
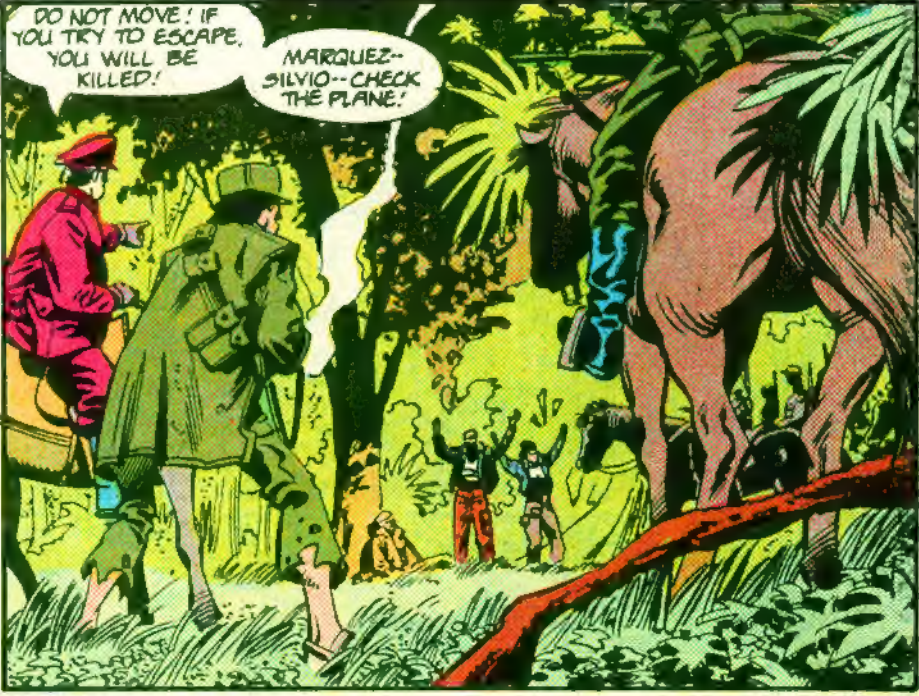
"FROM THE BLINFIRE, I FIGURED THERE WERE TEN, MAYBE TWELVE SHOOTERS AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE CRASH SITE. NATURALLY, MY SIDE ARM WAS STILL INSIDE THE PLANE-- IF I COULD SNEAK AROUND AND...



"OK, BAD IDEA."

"DO NOT MOVE! IF YOU TRY TO ESCAPE, YOU WILL BE KILLED!"

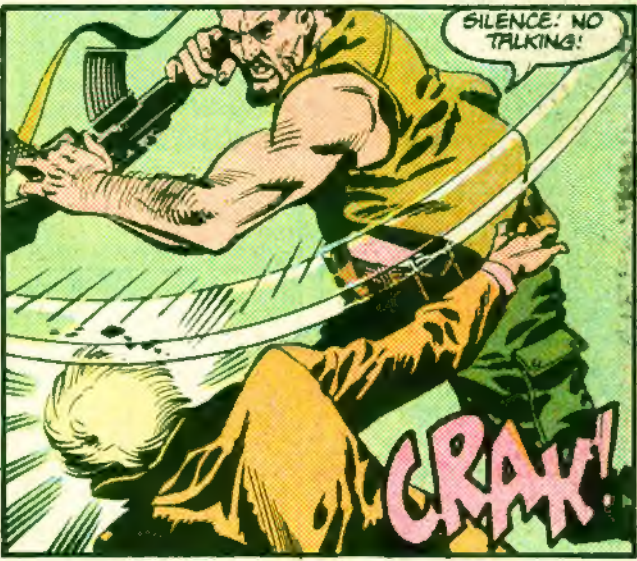
MARQUEZ-- SILVIO-- CHECK THE PLANE!"



CHAN--WE HAVE TO STOP THEM!

DAMN IT, IF THEY FIND OUR CARGO, THEY--

WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST? A QUICK GAME OF "ONE TWO THREE RED LIGHT?"



SILENCE! NO TALKING!

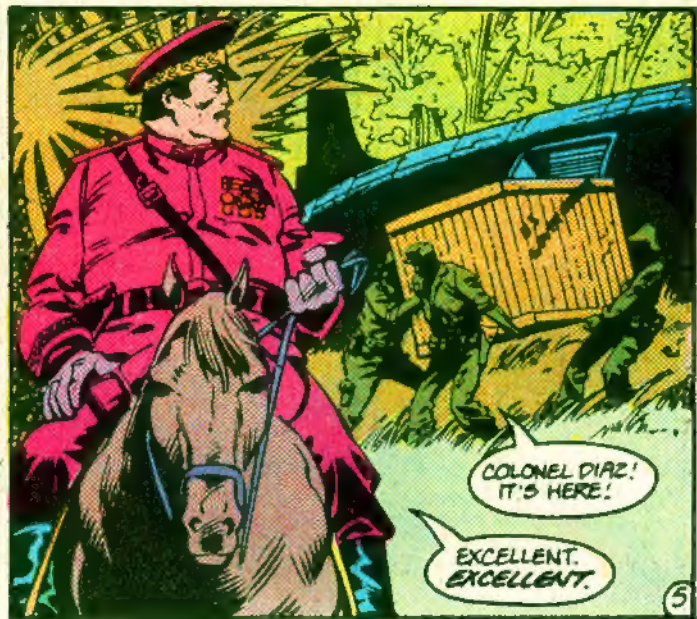


NICE SHOT, TYSON. WE'LL FIND YOU SOME CAMPFIRE GIRLS FOR THE NEXT ROUND.

YOU ALL RIGHT, CLAY?

YEAH, SURE-- EXCEPT I'LL NEVER WALK AGAIN.

"CUTE--KENDALL WAS OKAY FOR A SCIENCE-TYPE. I DON'T BLAME HIM FOR WHAT HAPPENED NEXT."



COLONEL DIAZ! IT'S HERE!

EXCELLENT. EXCELLENT.

"THINGS JUST WEREN'T WORKING OUT. I THOUGHT I'D PUT MY COMBAT DAYS BEHIND ME WHEN I EXCHANGED MY 'BLACKHAWK' DUPS FOR A THREE PIECE SUIT. BUT IT SEEMS YOU JUST CAN'T ESCAPE YOUR PAST."

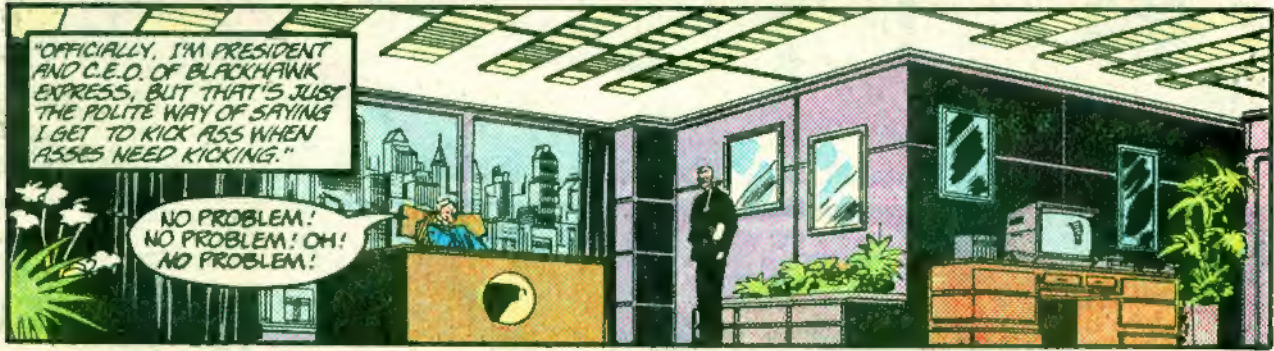
YOU KNOW, I'D GIVE HALF MY STOCK OPTIONS FOR A PILLOW AND A GLASS OF ICED TEA.

I'D GIVE TWO MONTHS' SALARY FOR A COUPLE OF SQUIRTS OF "BUG OFF."



"OFFICIALLY, I'M PRESIDENT AND C.E.O. OF BLACKHAWK EXPRESS, BUT THAT'S JUST THE POLITE WAY OF SAYING I GET TO KICK ASS WHEN ASSES NEED KICKING."

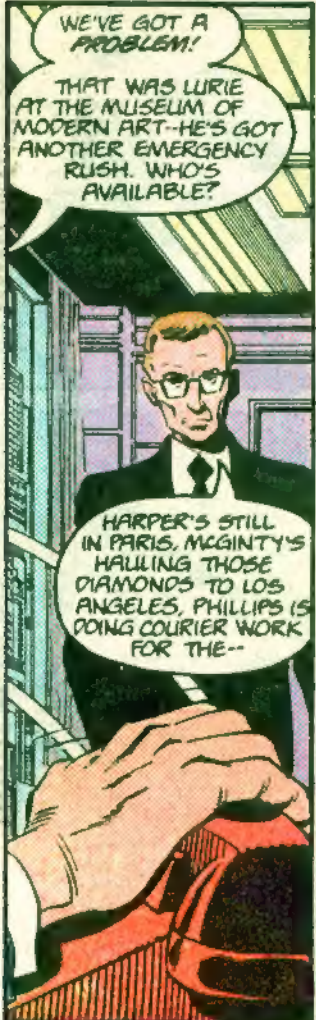
NO PROBLEM! NO PROBLEM! OH! NO PROBLEM!



WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM!

THAT WAS LURIE AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART--HE'S GOT ANOTHER EMERGENCY RUSH. WHO'S AVAILABLE?

HARPER'S STILL IN PARIS. MCGINTY'S HAULING THOSE DIAMONDS TO LOS ANGELES. PHILLIPS IS DOING COURIER WORK FOR THE--



"SEE, BUSINESS ISN'T THAT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM TOTAL WAR--EXCEPT IT'S ALL MENTAL. I MEAN, YOU RARELY END UP IN TRIAGE WITH A PAPER CUT."

EMERGENCY CALL ON LINE 4, MR. CHAN--!

NOT NOW, RITA! WE'VE GOT--

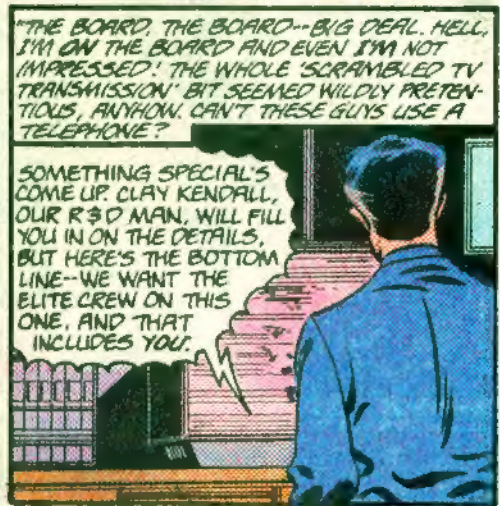
LINE 4, SIR--IT'S THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



OKAY, OKAY! REEDY, TELL HARPER I WANT HIM ON THE NEXT CONCORD TO NEW YORK OR I'LL HAVE HIM BACK FLYING TOURIST CHARTERS BETWEEN ANCHORAGE AND PRUDHOE BAY!

"THE BOARD THE BOARD--BIG DEAL. HELL, I'M ON THE BOARD AND EVEN I'M NOT IMPRESSED! THE WHOLE 'SCRAMBLED TV TRANSMISSION' BIT SEEMED WILDLY PRETENTIOUS, ANYHOW. CAN'T THESE GUYS USE A TELEPHONE?"

SOMETHING SPECIAL'S COME UP. CLAY KENDALL, OUR R&D MAN, WILL FILL YOU IN ON THE DETAILS, BUT HERE'S THE BOTTOM LINE--WE WANT THE ELITE CREW ON THIS ONE, AND THAT INCLUDES YOU.



ME? WHEN WE STARTED THIS, THE DEAL WAS NO MORE MISSIONS! LET'S PUT THIS TO A VOTE!

YOU'D LOSE. LOOK, IT'S A SIMPLE IN-AND-OUT DELIVERY. NOTHING FANCY, JUST IMPORTANT. WE NEED THE BEST ON THIS ONE. CHOP-CHOP.

"JEEZ, I HATE THAT NAME."



"I'D BEEN IN STABLES THAT SMELLED BETTER THAN THIS WHOLE SETUP. SO WHY'D I GO ALONG? I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE SOME SMALL PART OF ME WANTED TO FLY AGAIN."

PUT THE PRISONERS IN THE STOREHOUSE! AND BRING THE CRATE TO ME!

"OF COURSE, A GIANT PART OF ME WISHED I'D JUST STAYED HOME."

"STUCK IN THAT MUDHOLE, SURROUNDED BY DIAZ'S GOONS, THE REAL WORLD SEEMED A MILLION MILES AWAY. IT'S EASY TO THINK YOUR PROBLEMS ARE THE ONLY PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD."

LANTERN--
ARE YOU OUT
OF YOUR
MIND?

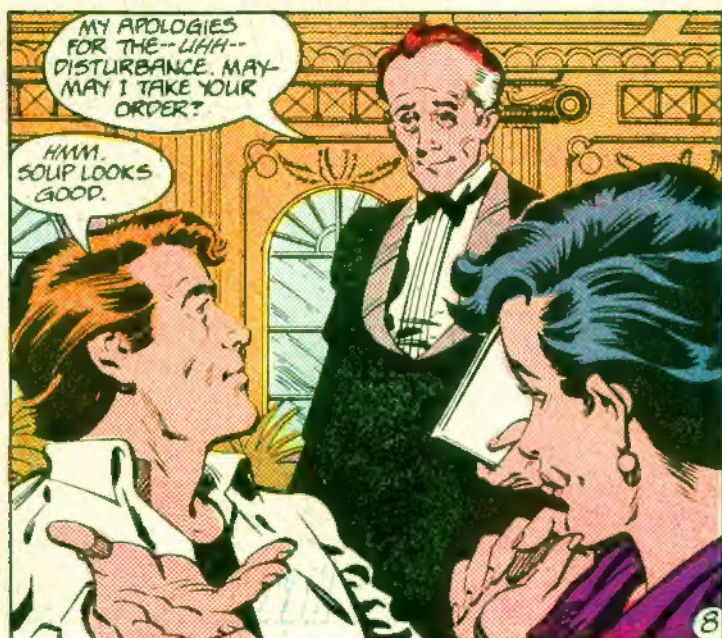
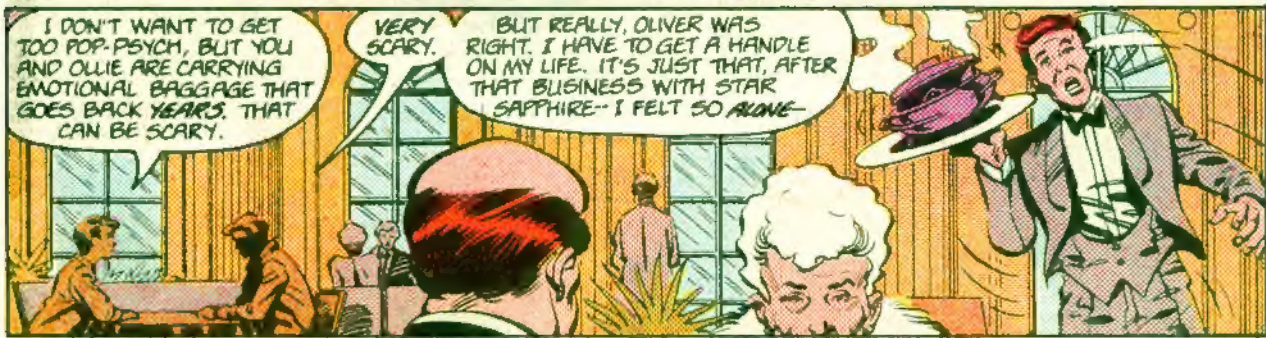
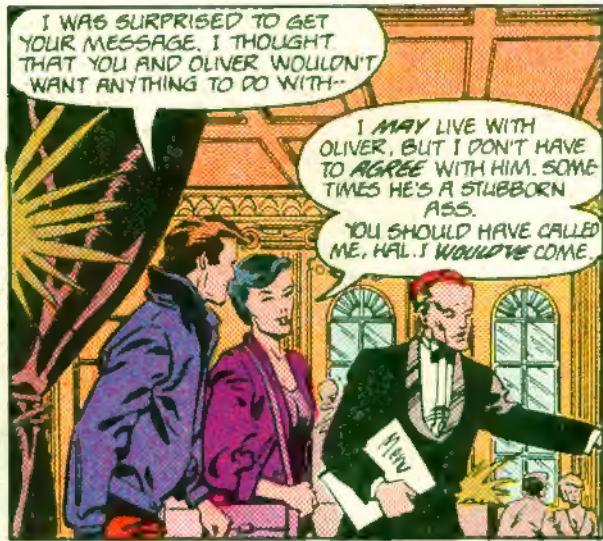
YEAH--MAYBE I AM.
ALL THESE YEARS, I
THOUGHT YOU WERE
MY FRIENDS. I NEVER
ASKED FOR MUCH--
JUST A LITTLE
RESPECT.

RESPECT'S SOME-
THING YOU EARN, HAL.
AND FACE IT--YOU ~~WANTED~~
YOU'RE BROKE, YOU CAN'T
HOLD A JOB--YOU'RE
A JOKE!

YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'VE ALWAYS LET MY
CONSCIENCE HOLD ME
BACK. THERE WERE SO
MANY TIMES I COULD
HAVE DONE THINGS--
DIFFERENTLY--
I WAS ALWAYS--
AFRAID--OF MY POWER.
AFRAID OF WHAT MIGHT
HAPPEN IF I EVER
LET GO.

WELL, I'M
NOT AFRAID
ANYMORE--!

AAAAAAYYY
SHE-SUS--!

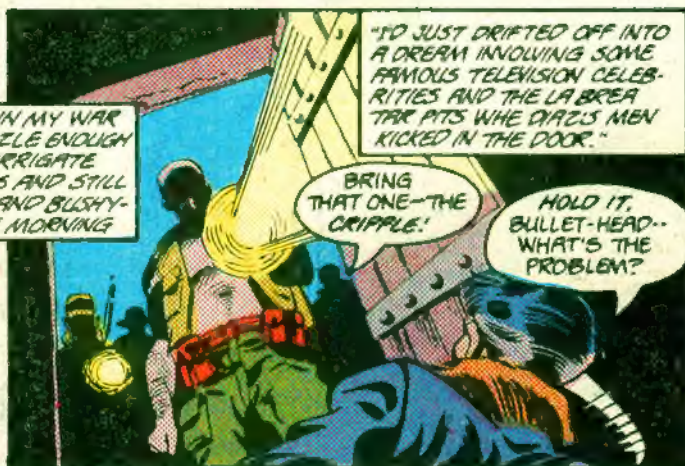


"DIAZ SET US UP IN STYLE. THE RATS WERE AS BIG AS COCKER SPANIELS AND THE FURNISHINGS REMINISCENT OF A GRADE SCHOOL TREE HOUSE, BUT HEY--THE PRICE WAS RIGHT."



"OLD AGE STINKS. IN MY WAR DAYS I COULD GUZZLE ENOUGH JACK DANIELS TO IRRIGATE THE GREAT PLAINS AND STILL BE BRIGHT-EYED AND BUSHY-TAILED FOR EARLY MORNING REVEILLE."

"NO MORE. WHATEVER DIAZ WAS DOING, IT'S KEEPING ME UP WAY PAST MY BED TIME."



"I'D JUST DRIFTED OFF INTO A DREAM INVOLVING SOME FAMOUS TELEVISION CELEBRITIES AND THE LABREA TAR PITS WHE DIAZ'S MEN KICKED IN THE DOOR."

"BRING THAT ONE--THE CRIPPLE!"

"HOLD IT, BULLET-HEAD--WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?"

"FORGET IT, CHAN--YOU CAN'T STOP THEM!"

"MAYBE YOU WANT TO TRY, OLD MAN? I'D LIKE THAT."



"THINK IT WOULD BE FAIR? SO FAR DEFENSELESS WOMEN AND GUYS IN WHEELCHAIRS SEEM MORE YOUR SPEED."

"ME AND THE BIG BOY WERE READY TO DANCE A FIVE FINGERED WALTZ WHEN THE COLONEL HIMSELF STROLLED INTO THE ROOM. PRETTY IMPRESSIVE-- YOU COULD WIRE HIS MEDALS TOGETHER AND HAVE A KILLER SET OF WIND CHIMES."



"CROWNEN! ENOUGH! TAKE THE SCIENTIST TO THE LAB AND HOLD HIM FOR QUESTIONING."

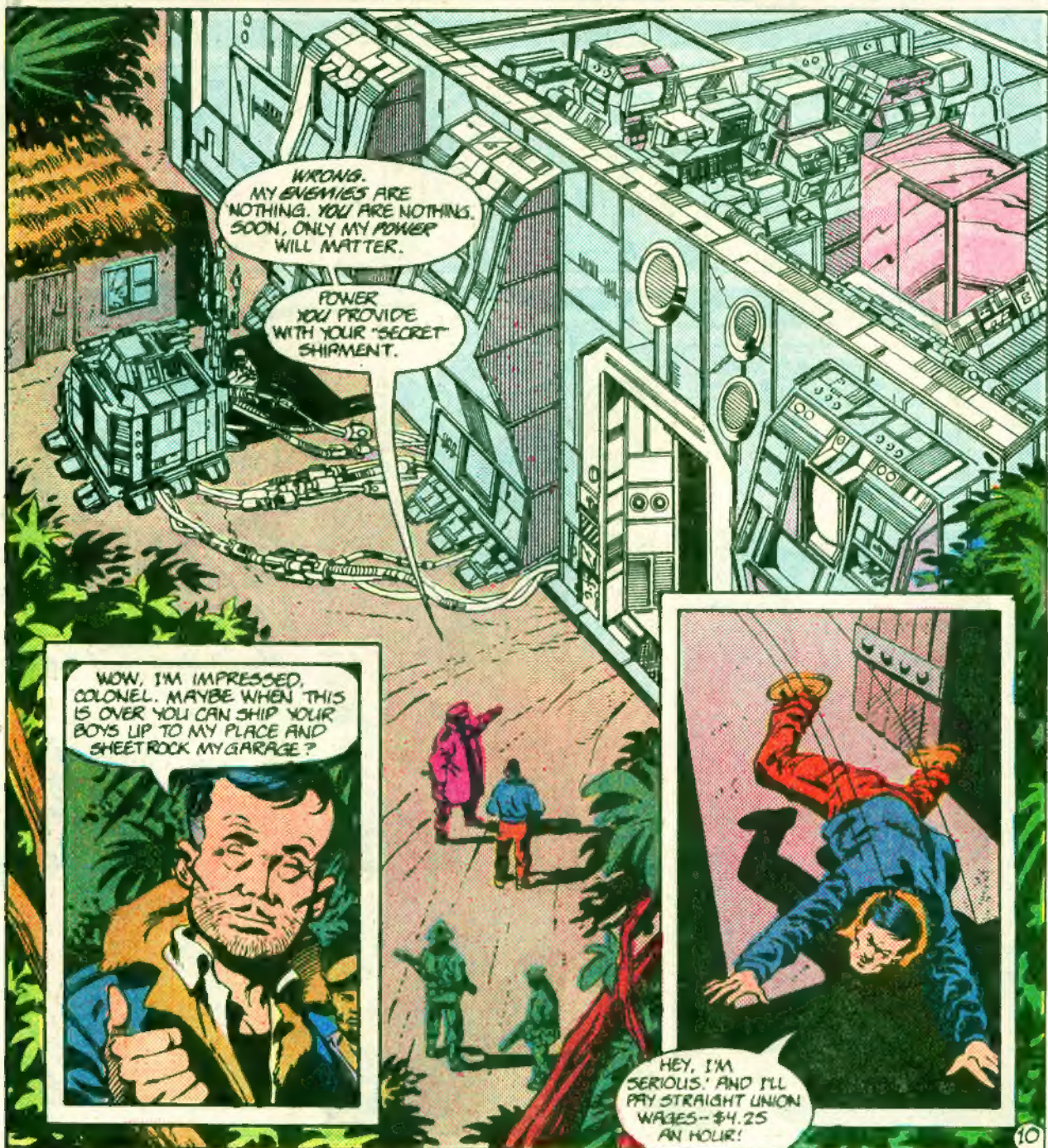
"YOU MUST BE THE PILOT OF THE PLANE WE CAPTURED."

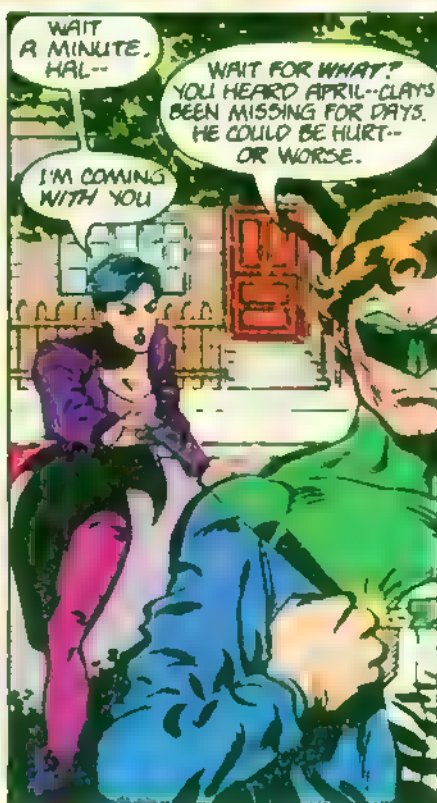
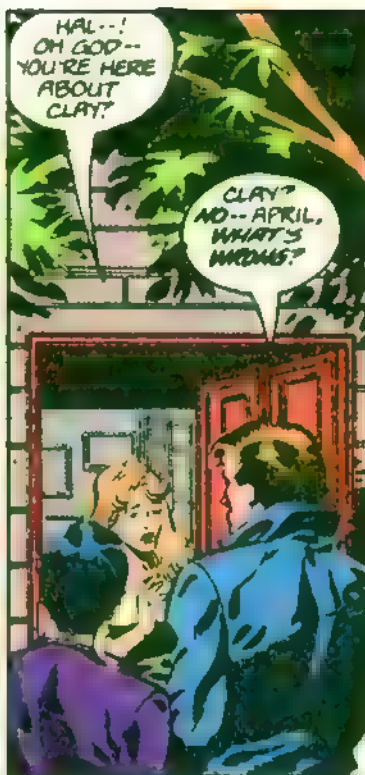
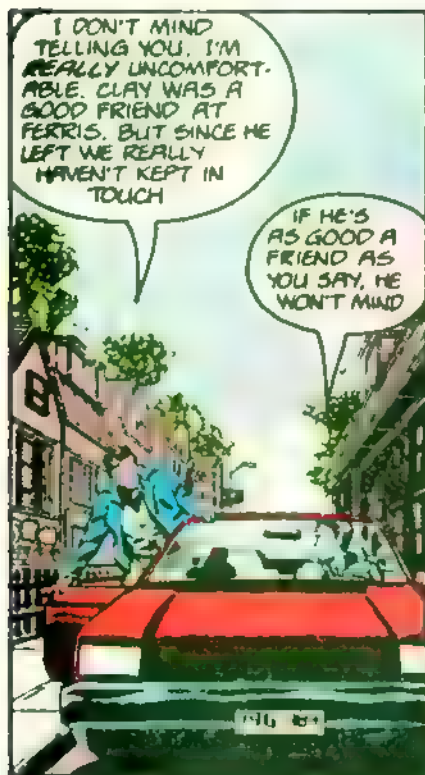
"IF BY CAPTURED YOU MEAN 'SHOT DOWN', YEAH, THAT'S ME. I HOPE YOU'VE GOT LIABILITY COVERAGE, PAL."

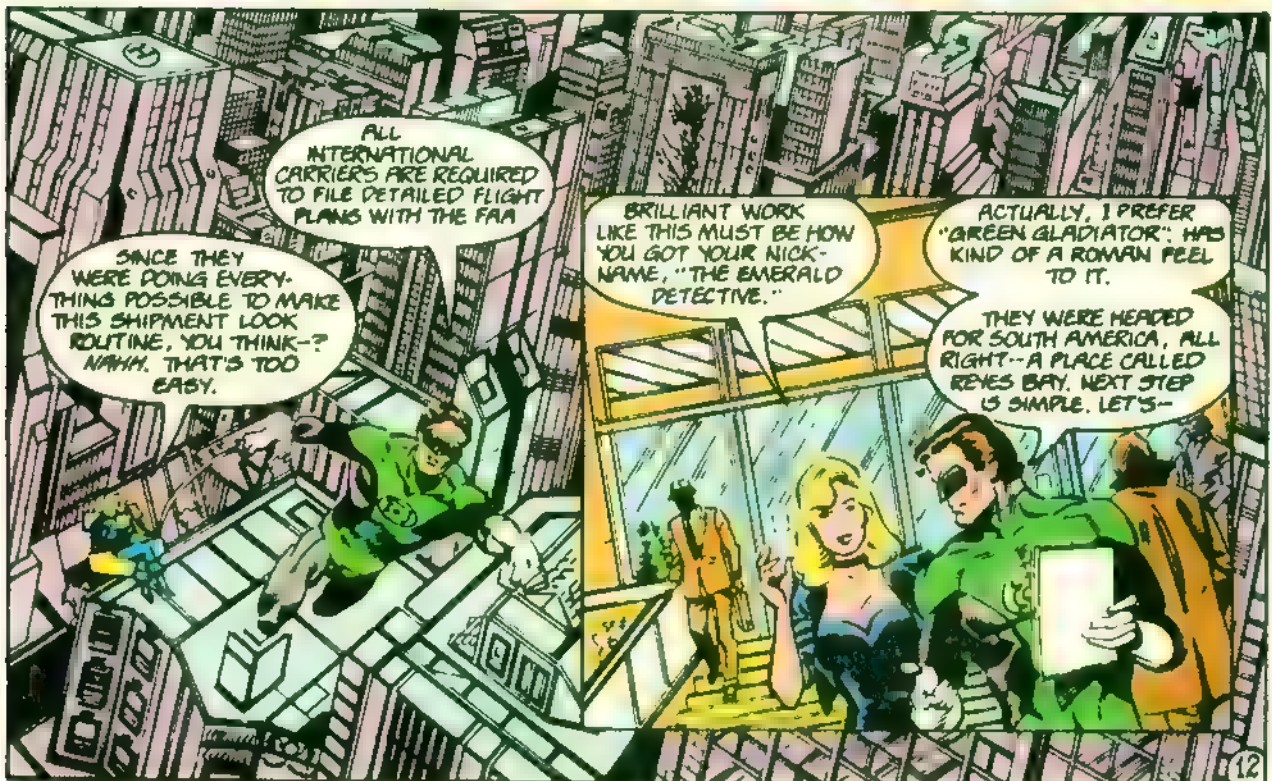
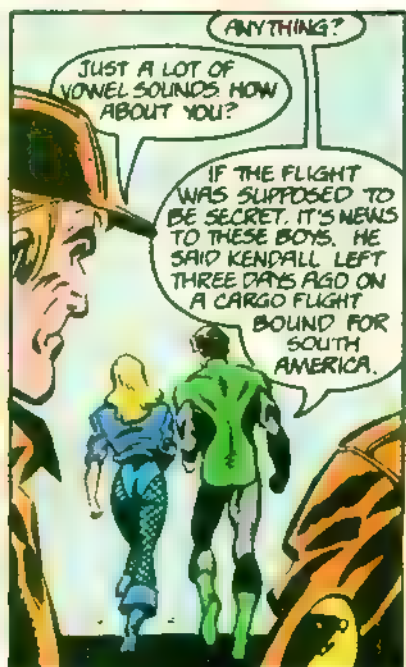
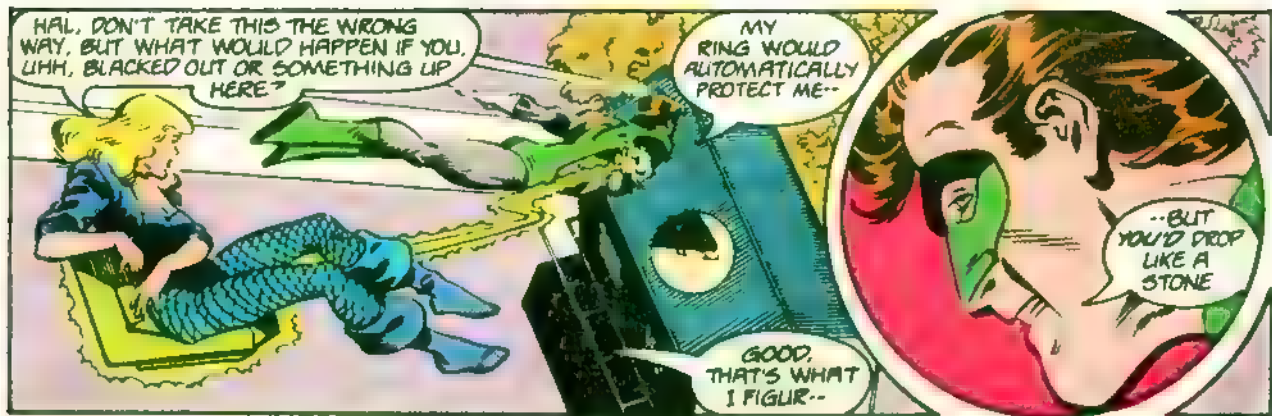
"I WOULDN'T WORRY. WE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU."

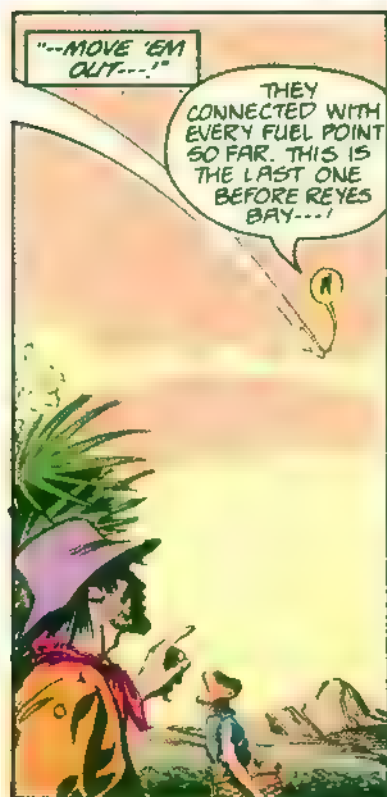
"BRING HIM!"





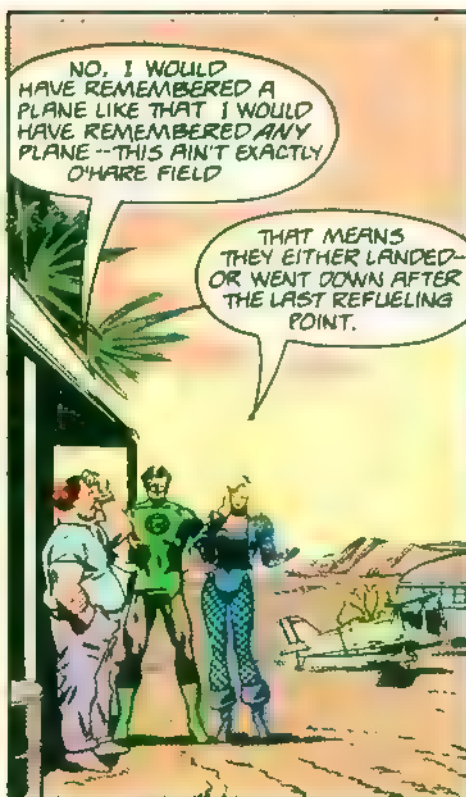






"--MOVE 'EM OUT--!"

THEY CONNECTED WITH EVERY FUEL POINT SO FAR. THIS IS THE LAST ONE BEFORE REYES BAY--!



NO. I WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED A PLANE LIKE THAT I WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED ANY PLANE--THIS AIN'T EXACTLY O'HARE FIELD

THAT MEANS THEY EITHER LANDED--OR WENT DOWN AFTER THE LAST REFUELING POINT.

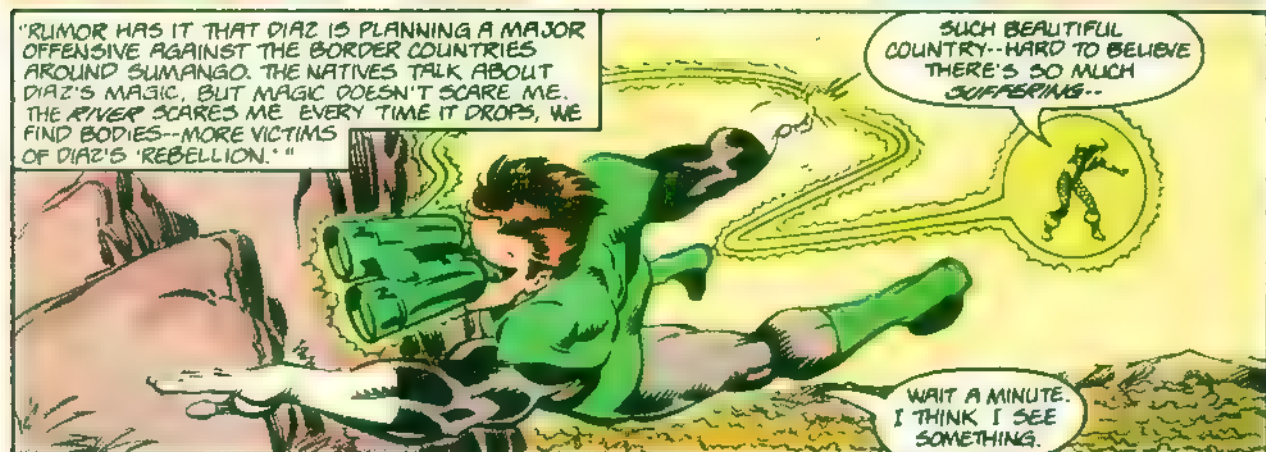


THESE FLIERS--FRIENDS OF YOURS?

YES.

TOO BAD--SOUNDS LIKE THEY MAY HAVE GONE DOWN OVER SUMANGO IF THE CRASH DIDN'T GET 'EM. THEN DIAZ PROBABLY WILL.

"RUMOR HAS IT THAT DIAZ IS PLANNING A MAJOR OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE BORDER COUNTRIES AROUND SUMANGO. THE NATIVES TALK ABOUT DIAZ'S MAGIC, BUT MAGIC DOESN'T SCARE ME. THE RIVER SCARES ME EVERY TIME IT DROPS, WE FIND BODIES--MORE VICTIMS OF DIAZ'S 'REBELLION.'"

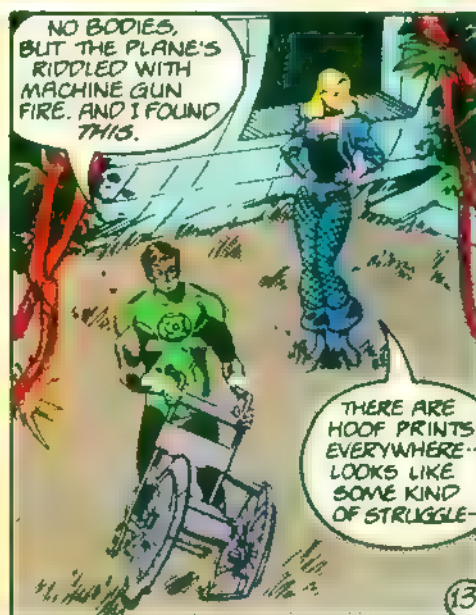


SUCH BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY--HARD TO BELIEVE THERE'S SO MUCH SUFFERING--

WAIT A MINUTE. I THINK I SEE SOMETHING.



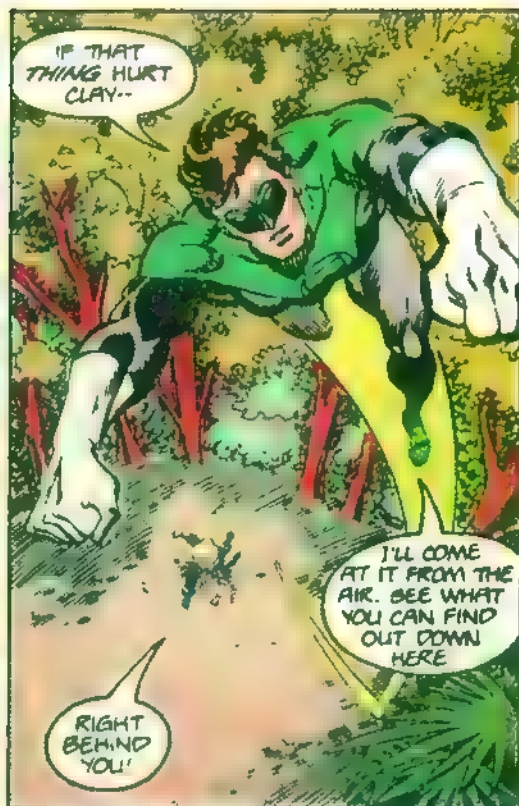
OH MY GOD

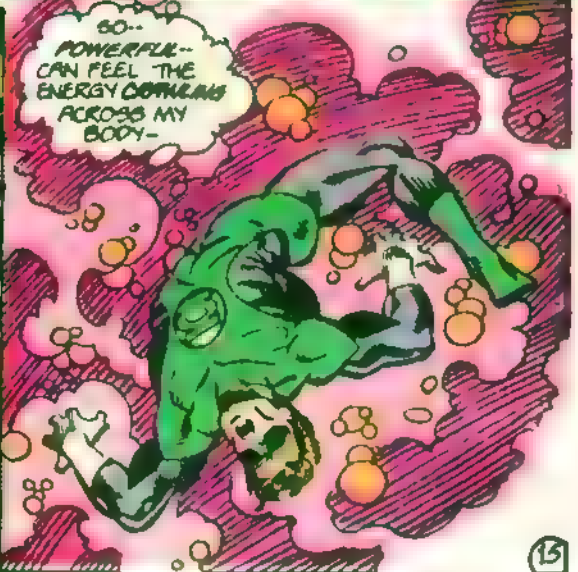
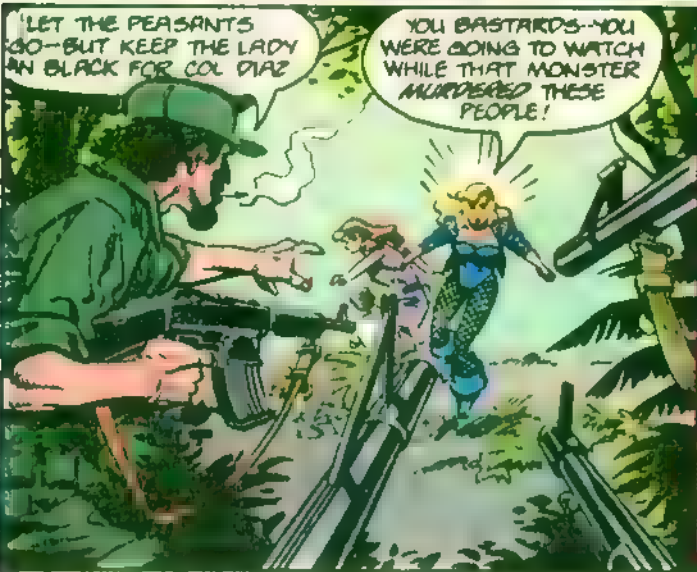
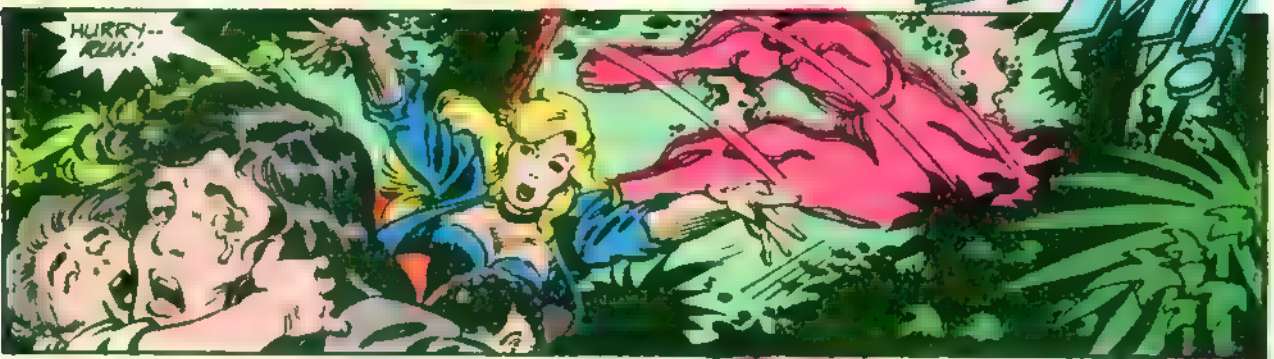
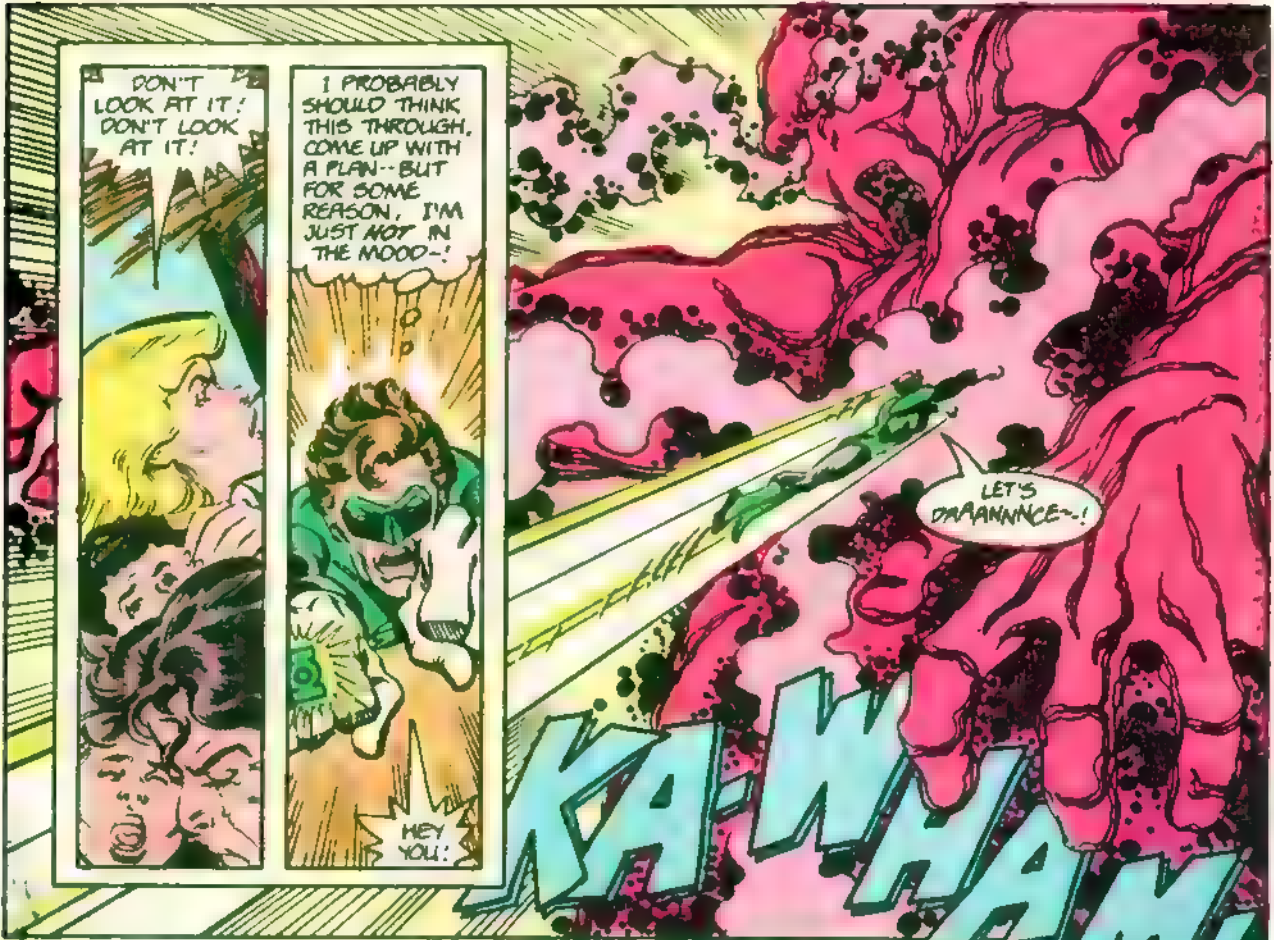


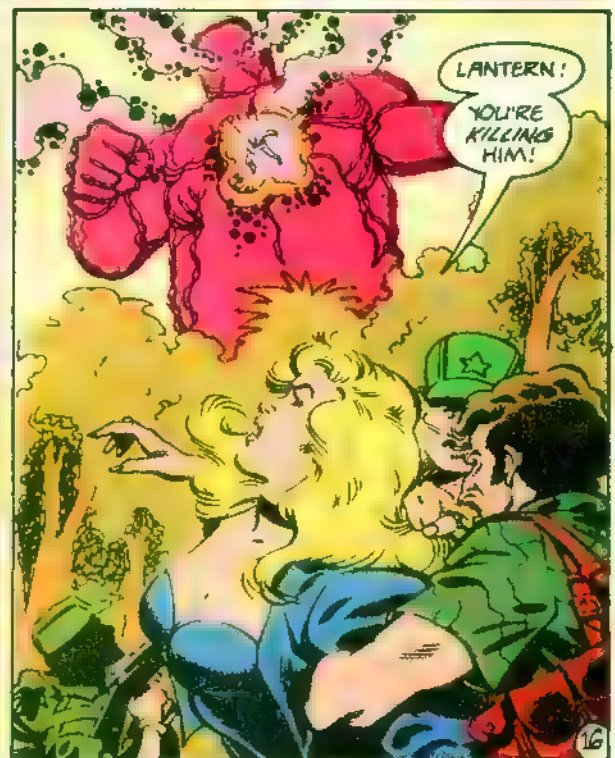
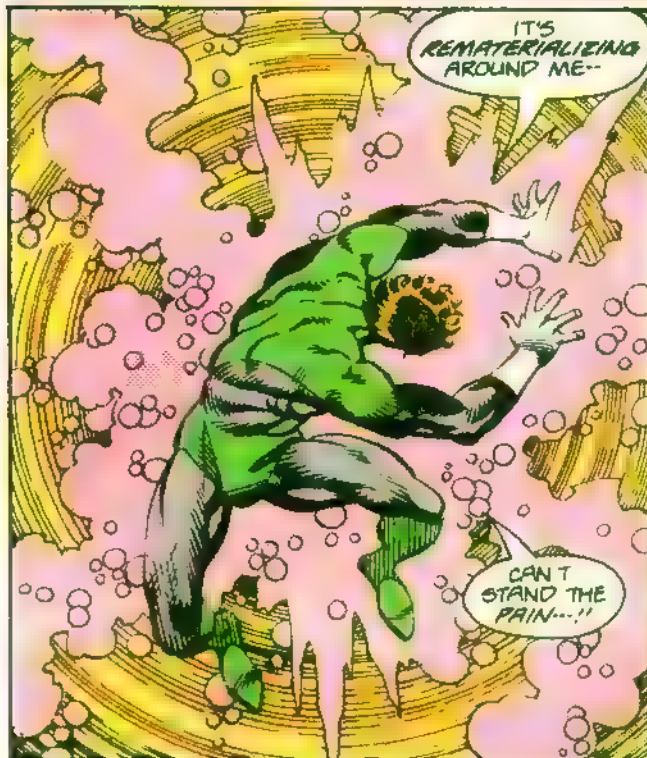
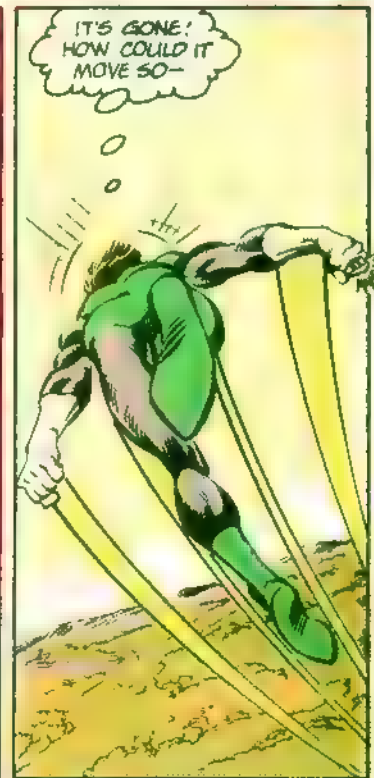
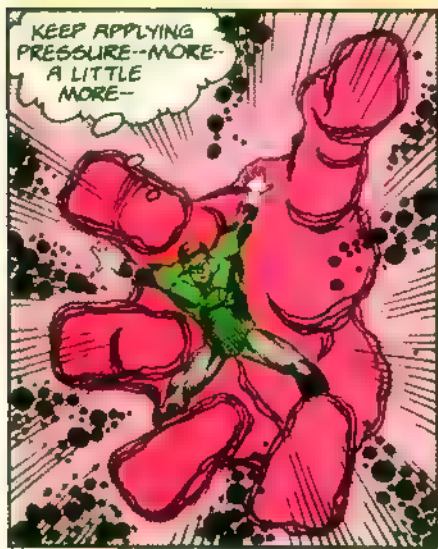
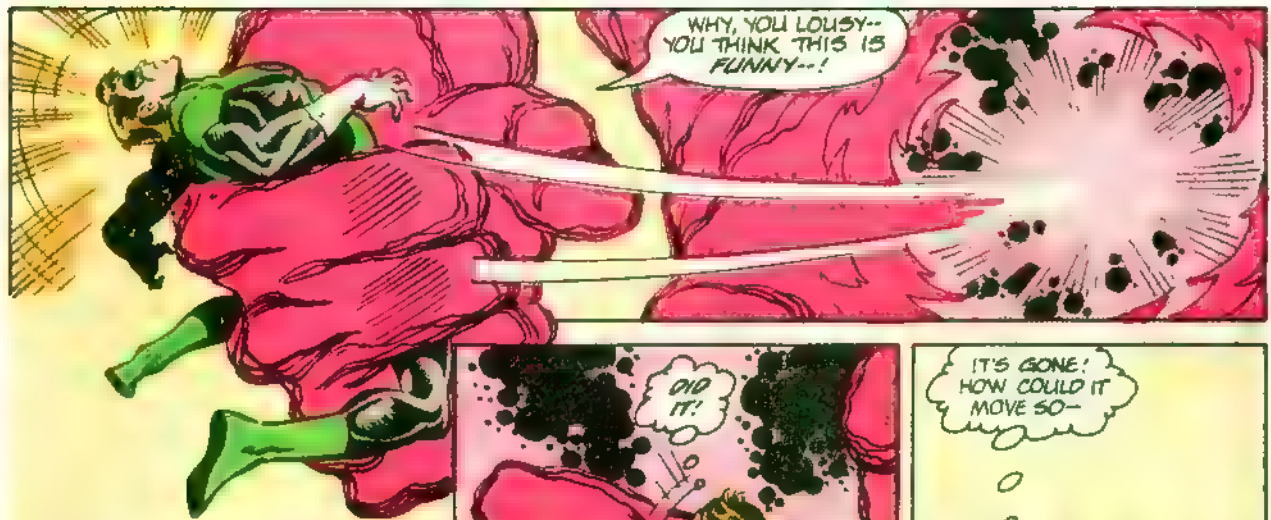
NO BODIES, BUT THE PLANE'S RIDDLED WITH MACHINE GUN FIRE. AND I FOUND THIS.

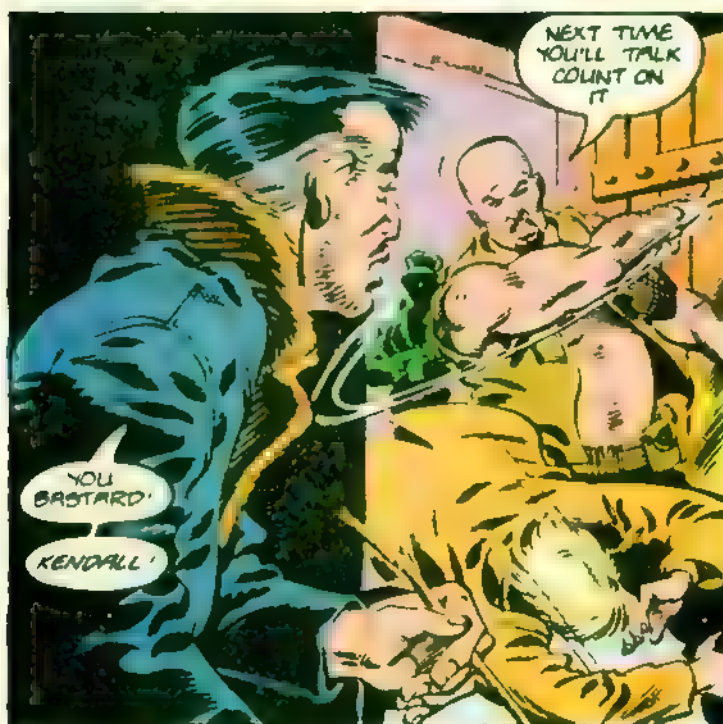
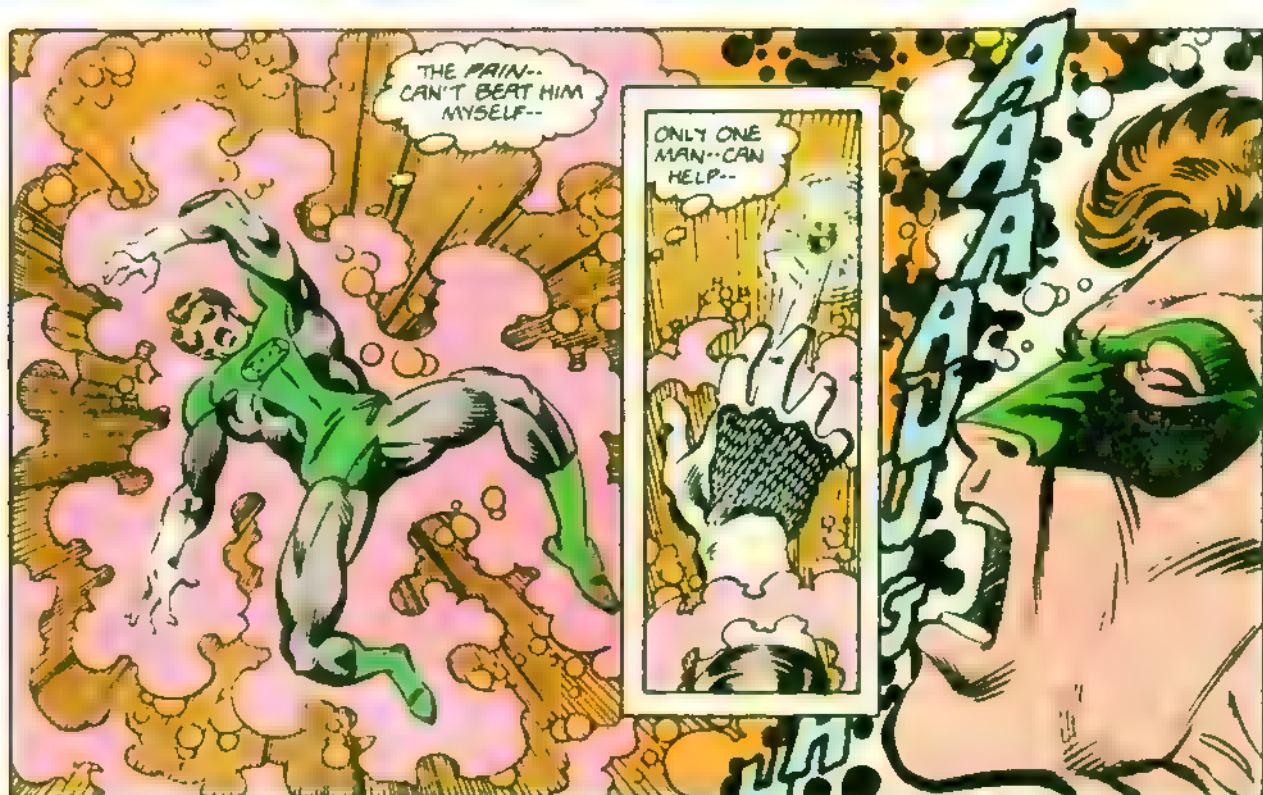
THERE ARE HOOOF PRINTS EVERYWHERE--LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF STRUGGLE--

K A T H O O M









"DIDN'T SLEEP WORTH A DAMN. AS MORNING CAME, I FIGURED THINGS COULDN'T POSSIBLY GET ANY WORSE. RIGHT. JUST CALL ME 'KRESKIN.'"

"WAKE UP! ANOTHER PRESENT FROM COLONEL DIAZ!"

"I HADN'T THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT DIAZ'S 'UNLIMITED POWER' NONSENSE UNTIL I SAW GREEN LANTERN SPRAWLED OUT LIKE A BEARSKIN RUG."

HE WAS HURT TRYING TO STOP THIS ENORMOUS ENERGY THING—I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!

I HAVE.

I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.

THE BOARD LIED, MR. CHAN. THOSE WEREN'T REPLACEMENT PARTS—DIAZ HAS CAPTURED A PROTOTYPE ENERGY COLLECTOR—WE WERE GOING TO TEST IT AT REYES BAY.

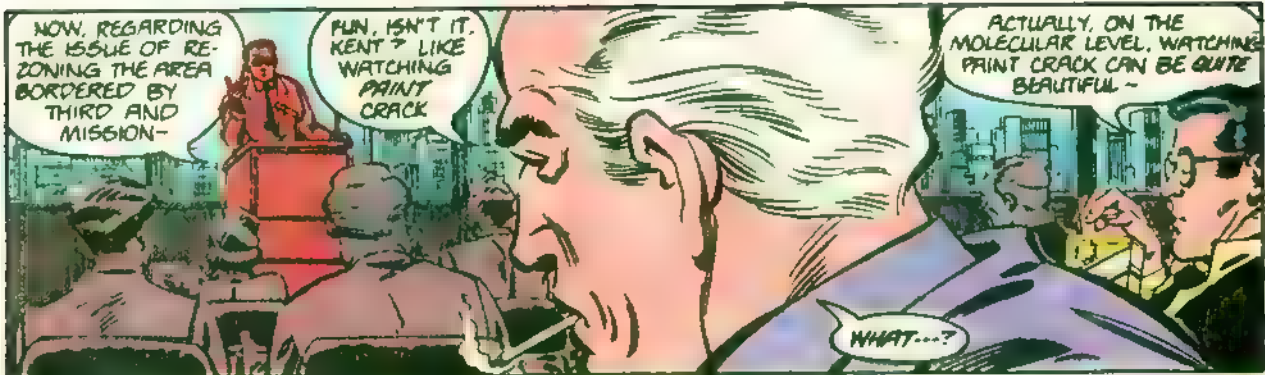
NOW I'M MAD WHY THE HELL WAS THAT THING ON MY PLANE?

YOU KNOW HOW THE ARMY SENDS BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS THROUGH THE MAIL? SAME PRINCIPLE, I GUESS. WE DIDN'T THINK THEY'D SUSPECT A NON-MILITARY TRANSPORT.

WAIT A MINUTE—THEY SEND BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS THROUGH THE MAIL?!

DIAZ HAS FIGURED OUT A WAY TO HARNESS THE ENERGY INTO SOME SORT OF SENTIENT FORM—

—WHICH MEANS DIAZ HAS HIS HANDS ON POWER BEYOND ANYTHING IN THE REGION. IF WE DON'T STOP HIM, THERE'S GOING TO BE A SLAUGHTER.



NOW, REGARDING THE ISSUE OF RE-ZONING THE AREA BORDERED BY THIRD AND MISSION-

PUN, ISN'T IT, KENT? LIKE WATCHING PAINT CRACK

ACTUALLY, ON THE MOLECULAR LEVEL, WATCHING PAINT CRACK CAN BE QUITE BEAUTIFUL -

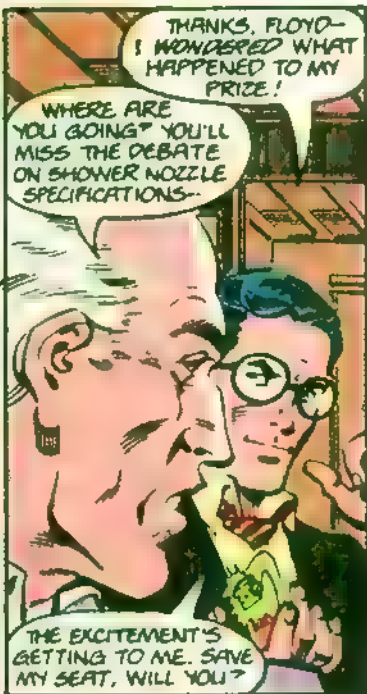
WHAT...?



NOTHING CRACKER JACK?

HEY--WHAT'S THIS?

WHAT IN TH-- THAT'S GREEN LANTERN'S RING--!



THANKS, FLOYD-- I WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PRICE!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? YOU'LL MISS THE DEBATE ON SHOWER NOZZLE SPECIFICATIONS--

THE EXCITEMENT'S GETTING TO ME. SAVE MY SEAT, WILL YOU?



GREEN LANTERN WOULDN'T SEND HIS RING UNLESS HE WAS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.

BUT EVEN IF HE ISN'T, I OWE HIM A FAVOR FOR GETTING ME OUT OF THERE!



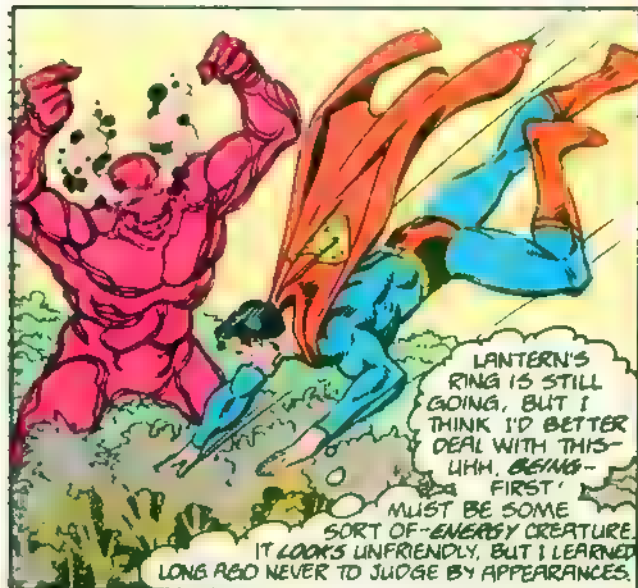
FEELS GOOD TO BE IN THE AIR AGAIN. NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET BORED WITH MY JOB--AS KENT OR AS SUPERMAN

WHEN YOU'VE DONE BATTLE WITH EVERYTHING FROM CLOUD CREATURES TO FIVE HUNDRED FOOT ALIEN WHALES, IT'S TOUGH TO MUSTER ENTHUSIASM OVER ZONING REGULATIONS.



GOOD LORD-- LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY DROPPED A BOMB DOWN THERE--!

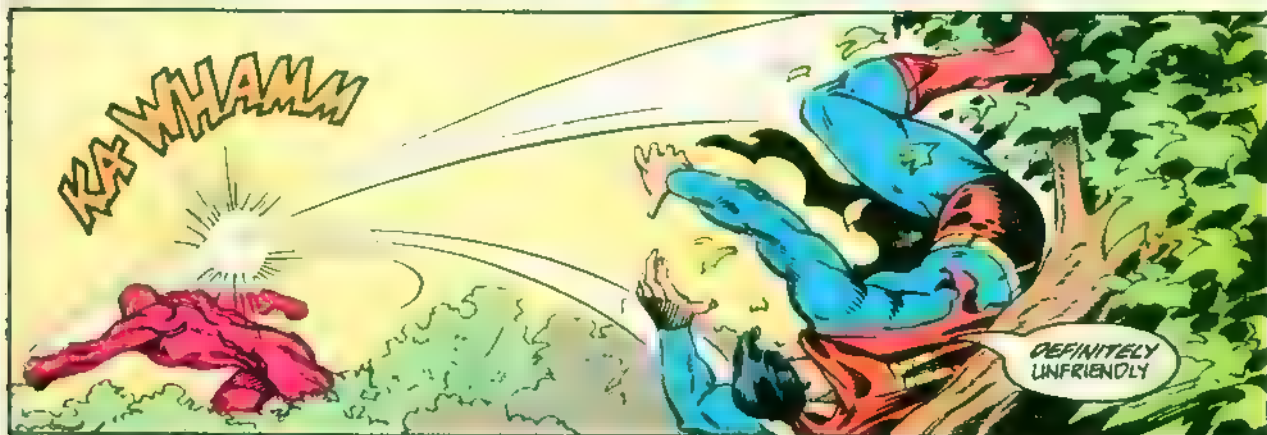
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT?



LANTERN'S RING IS STILL GOING, BUT I THINK I'D BETTER DEAL WITH THIS-- UHM, BEING-- FIRST-- MUST BE SOME SORT OF-- ENERGY CREATURE. IT LOOKS UNFRIENDLY, BUT I LEARNED LONG AGO NEVER TO JUDGE BY APPEARANCES.

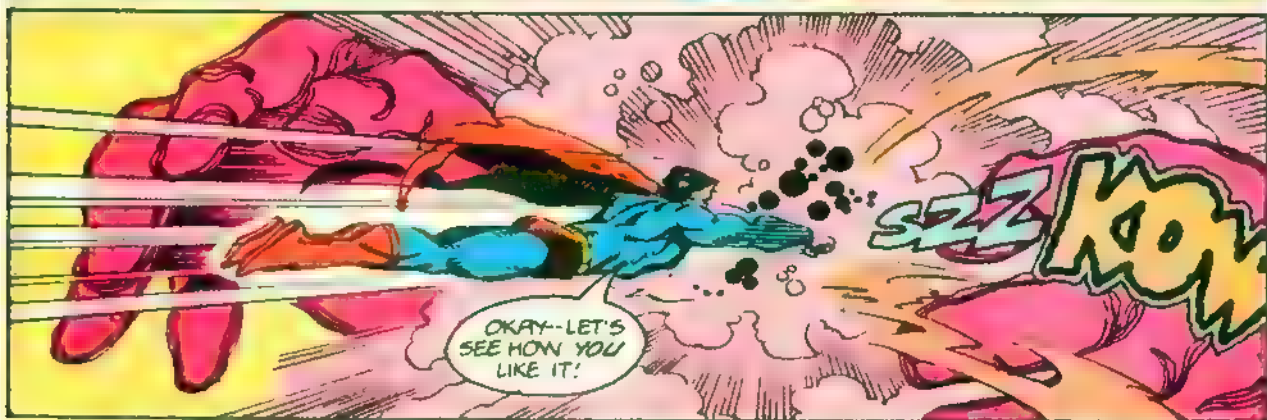


HELLO UHM-- ARE YOU HAVING SOME SORT OF-- PROBLEM?



KA WHAM!

DEFINITELY UNFRIENDLY



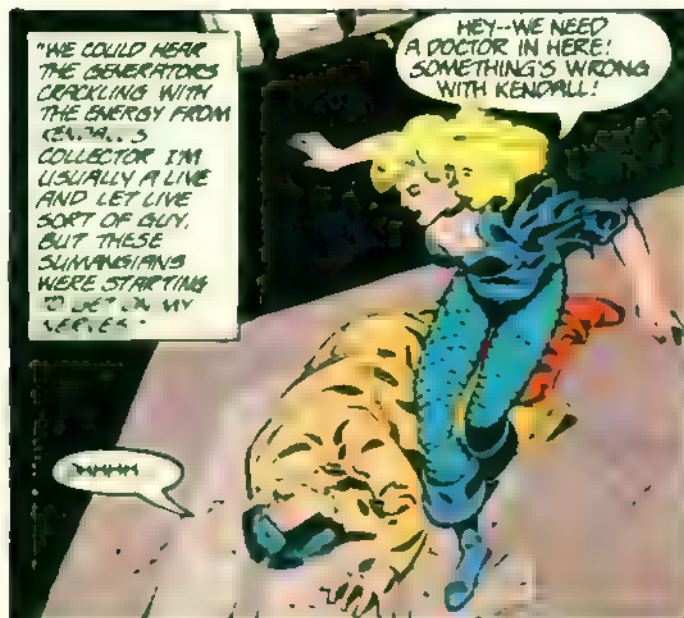
SZZ KOOW

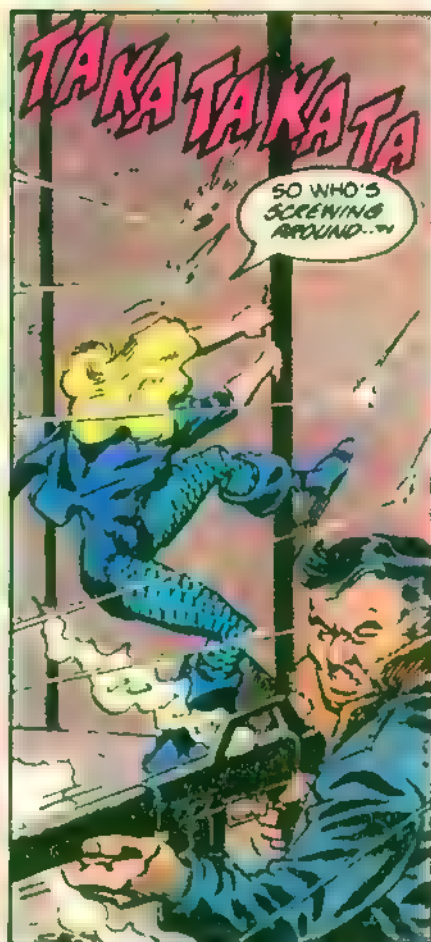
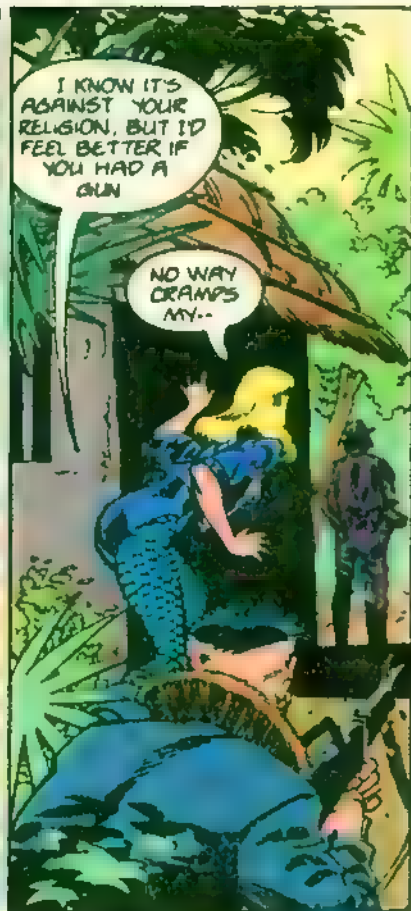
OKAY--LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT!

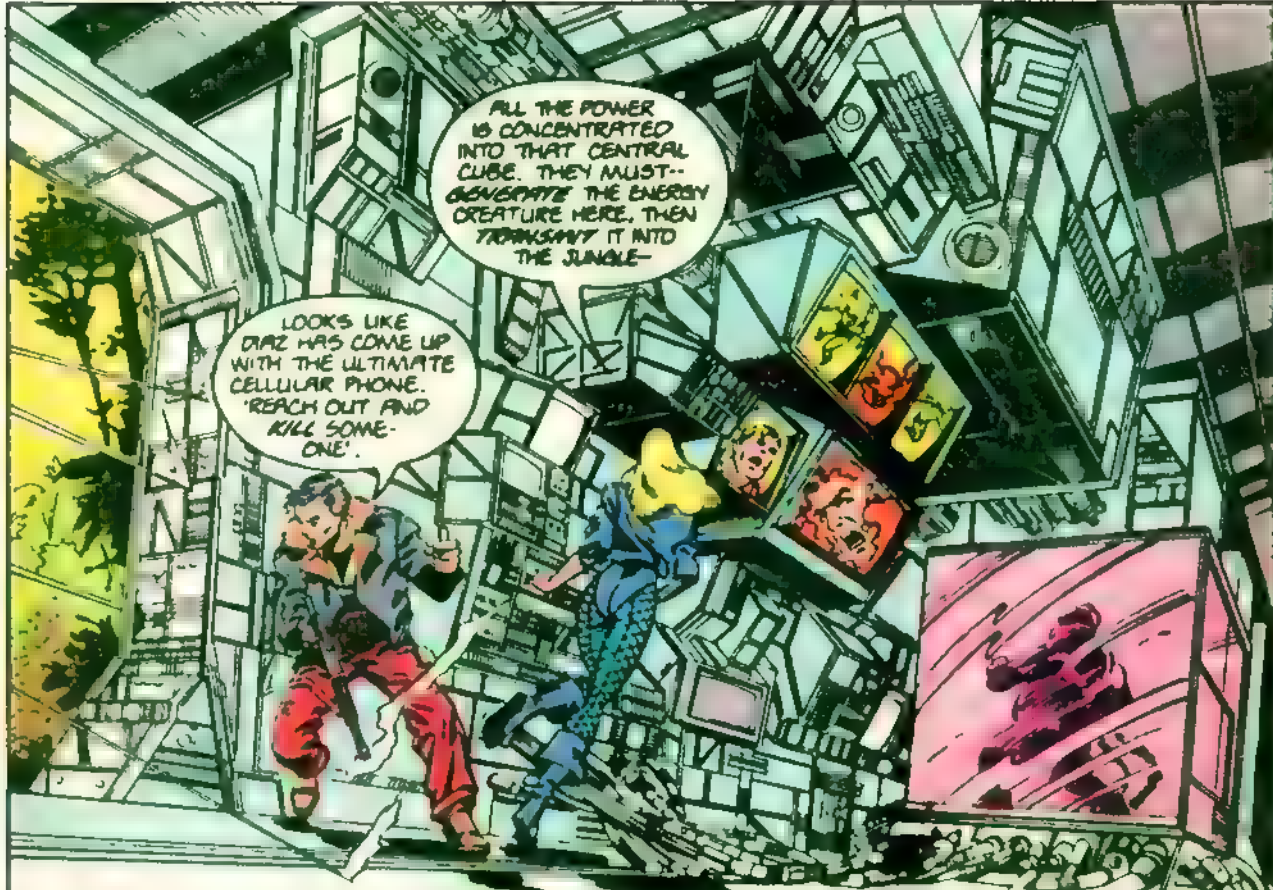


I PUT EVERYTHING I HAD INTO THAT PUNCH-- AND IT DIDN'T EVEN FAZE HIM!

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE STUCK AROUND FOR THE SHOWER NOZZLES







ALL THE POWER IS CONCENTRATED INTO THAT CENTRAL CUBE. THEY MUST--
DEVEGATE THE ENERGY CREATURE HERE, THEN TRANSMIT IT INTO THE JUNGLE--

LOOKS LIKE DIAZ HAS COME UP WITH THE ULTIMATE CELLULAR PHONE. 'REACH OUT AND KILL SOME-ONE'.



SUPERMAN? IT'S A REGULAR CONVENTION OUT HERE--



RAKA
RAKA
RAKA

ALSHANN!
DAMN!

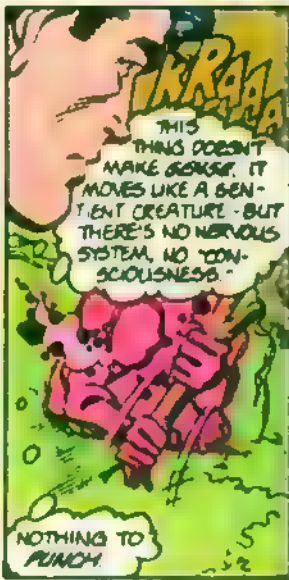
CHOP-
CHOP!



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

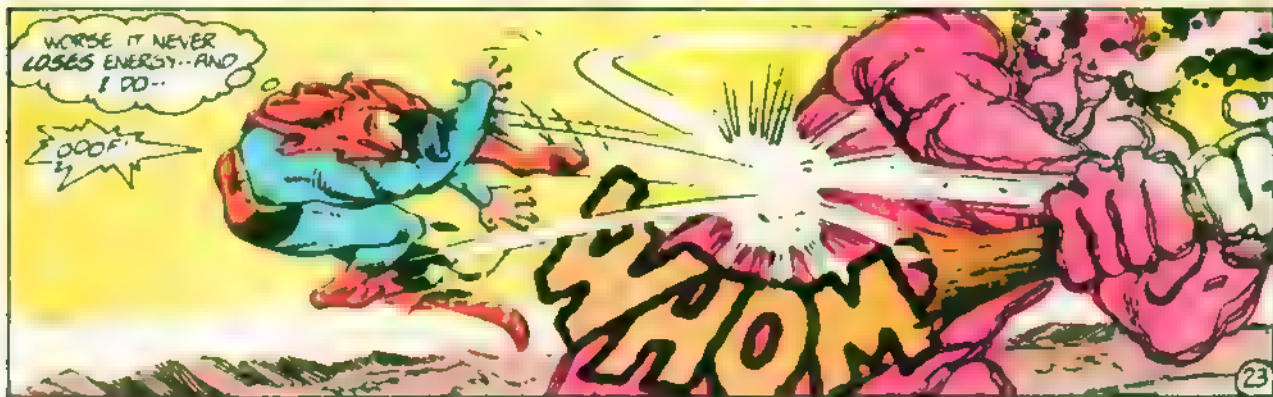
THAT KILLS MY CHANCES AT THIS YEAR'S POWER LIFTING COMPETITION!

AND DON'T CALL ME CHOP CHOP!



IKRAA
THIS THING DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. IT MOVES LIKE A SENTIENT CREATURE - BUT THERE'S NO NERVOUS SYSTEM, NO 'CONSCIOUSNESS'.

NOTHING TO PUNCH.



WORSE IT NEVER LOSES ENERGY--AND I DO--

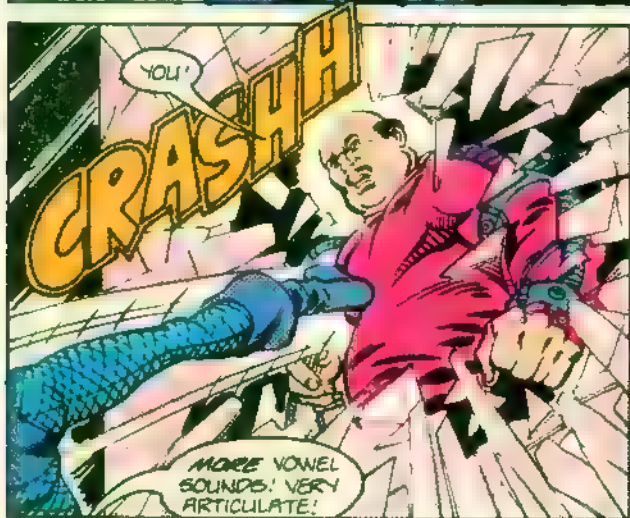
OOOF!

THOM



MY SHOULDER WAS THROBBING LIKE THE HEART OF A JULIO IGLESIAS FAN AND FOR THE FIRST TIME I WAS LOSING MY TEMPER. HEY, I'M A U.S. CITIZEN--A VETERAN, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE! I DIDN'T NEED THIS CRAP!

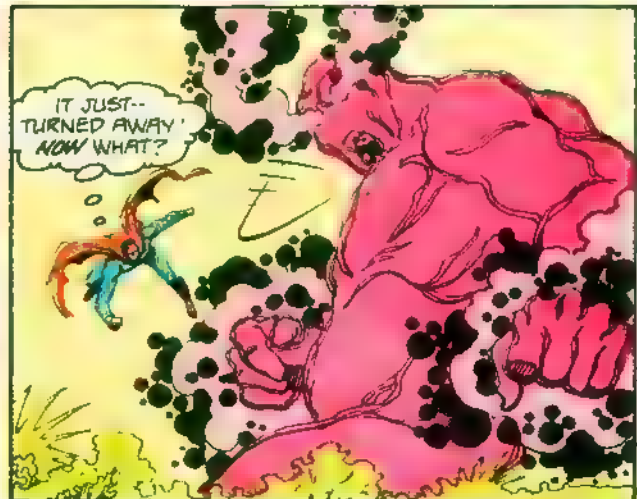
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT! JUST TAKE CARE "ROBOCOP."



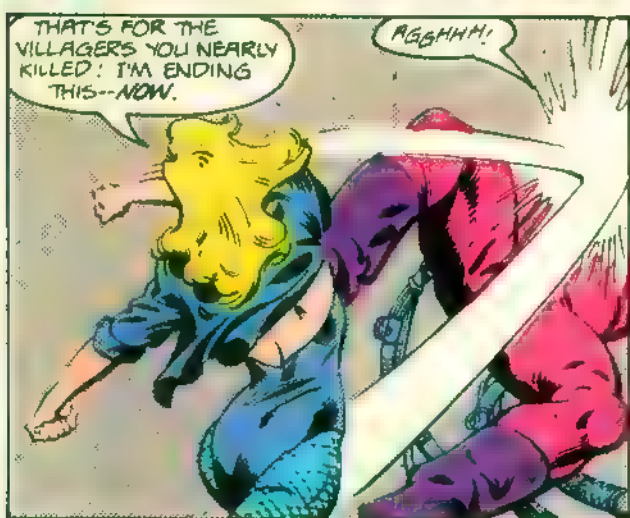
YOU!

CRASHH

MORE VOWEL SOUNDS! VERY ARTICULATE!



IT JUST--TURNED AWAY! NOW WHAT?



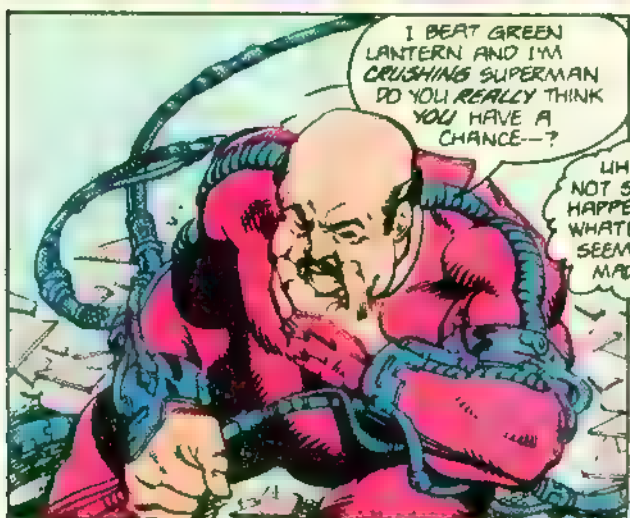
THAT'S FOR THE VILLAGERS YOU NEARLY KILLED: I'M ENDING THIS--NOW.

RGSHHH!

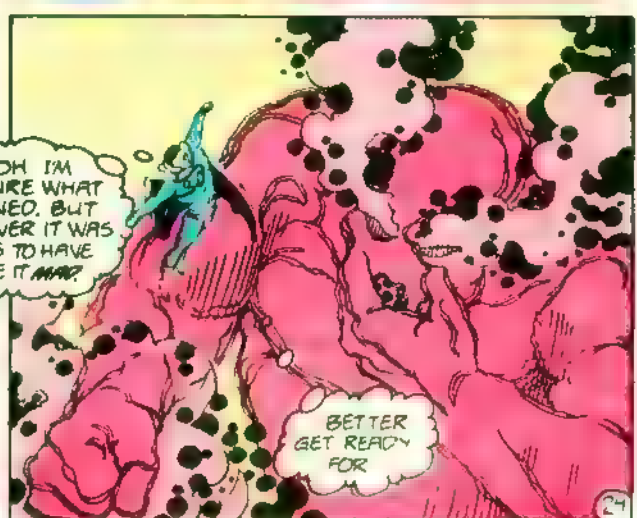


WHOA---!

NICE PUNCH--I WONDER WHO THREW IT?

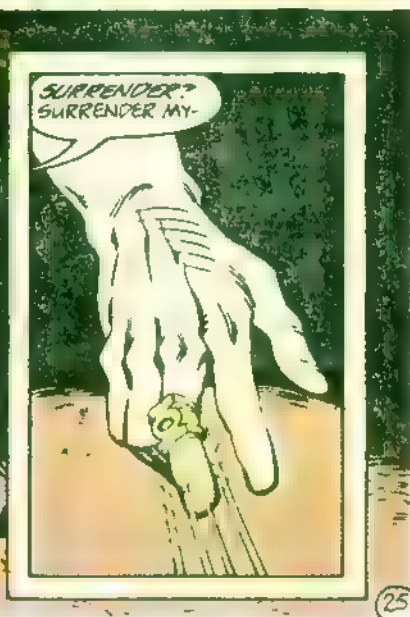
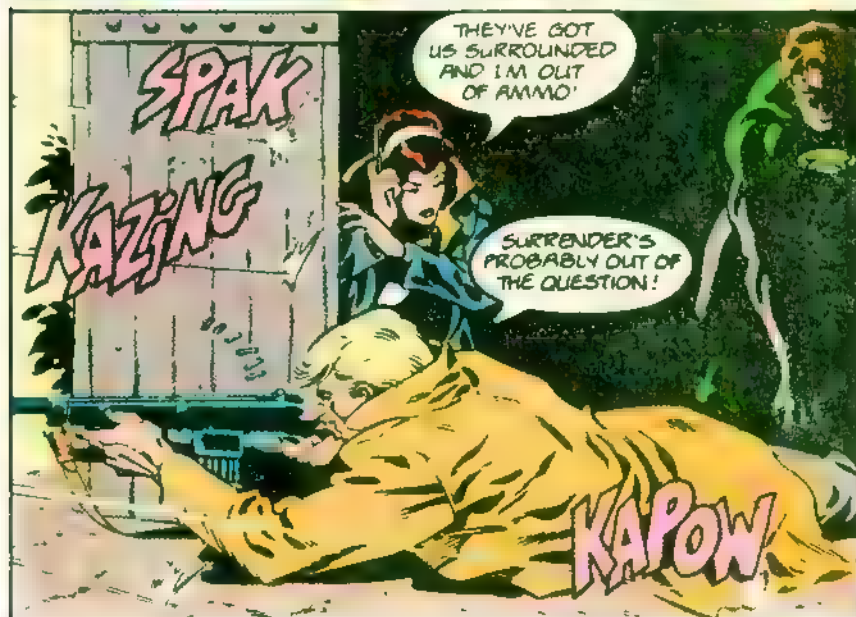
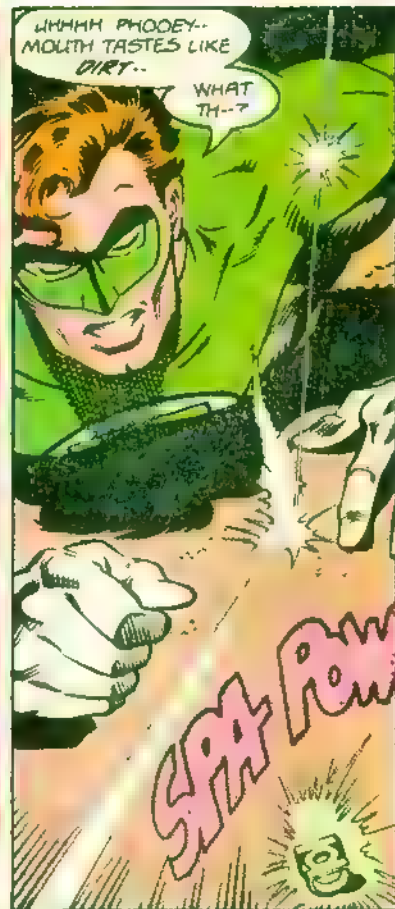
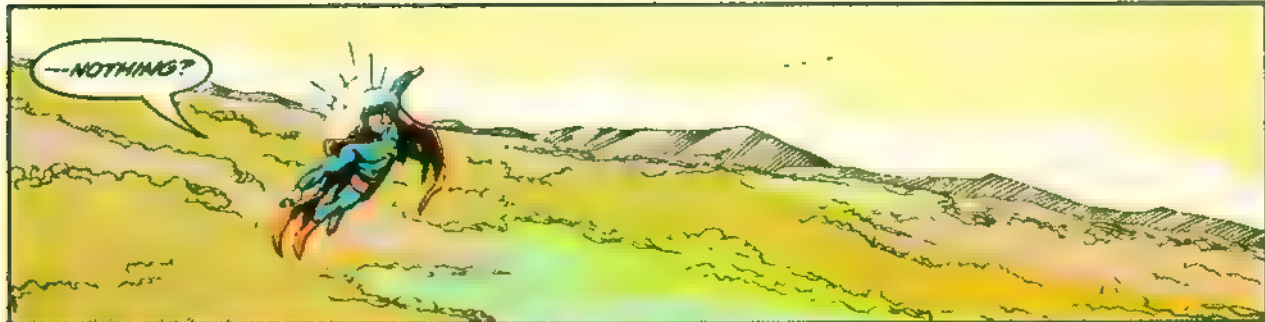


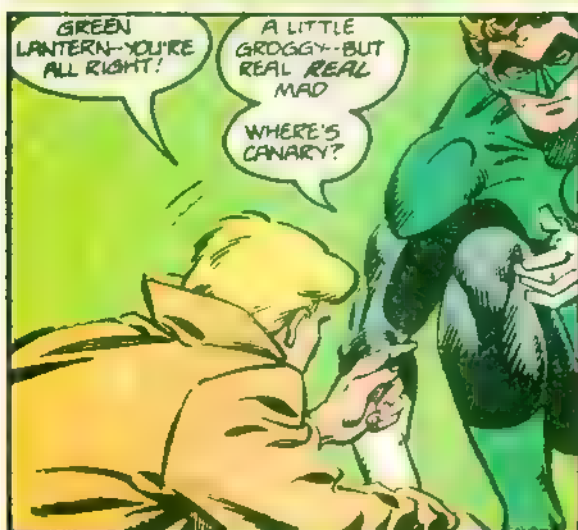
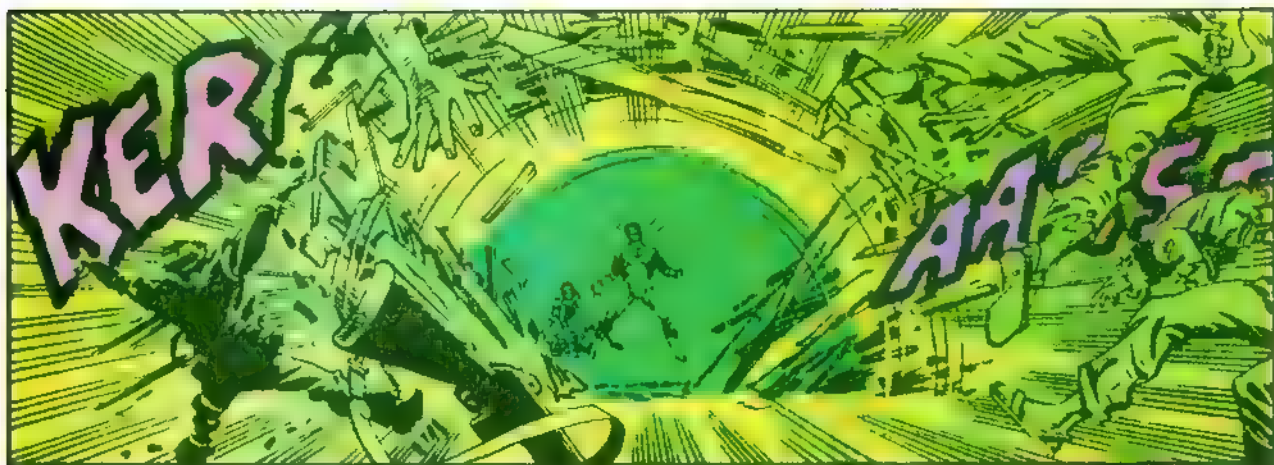
I BEAT GREEN LANTERN AND I'M CRUSHING SUPERMAN. DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU HAVE A CHANCE--?



UH OH I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED, BUT WHATEVER IT WAS SEEMS TO HAVE MADE IT WAR?

BETTER GET READY FOR





GREEN LANTERN--YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

A LITTLE GROGGY--BUT REAL REAL MAD

WHERE'S CANARY?

"DIZZ NEVER HAD BOTH EARS IN THE WATER, BUT THE FORCE OF THE ENERGY COLLECTOR HAD PUSHED HIM TOTALLY INTO LALA LAND. HE WASN'T THINKING ABOUT HIS CAUSE, OR HIS PEOPLE. HE WAS THINKING ABOUT POWER."

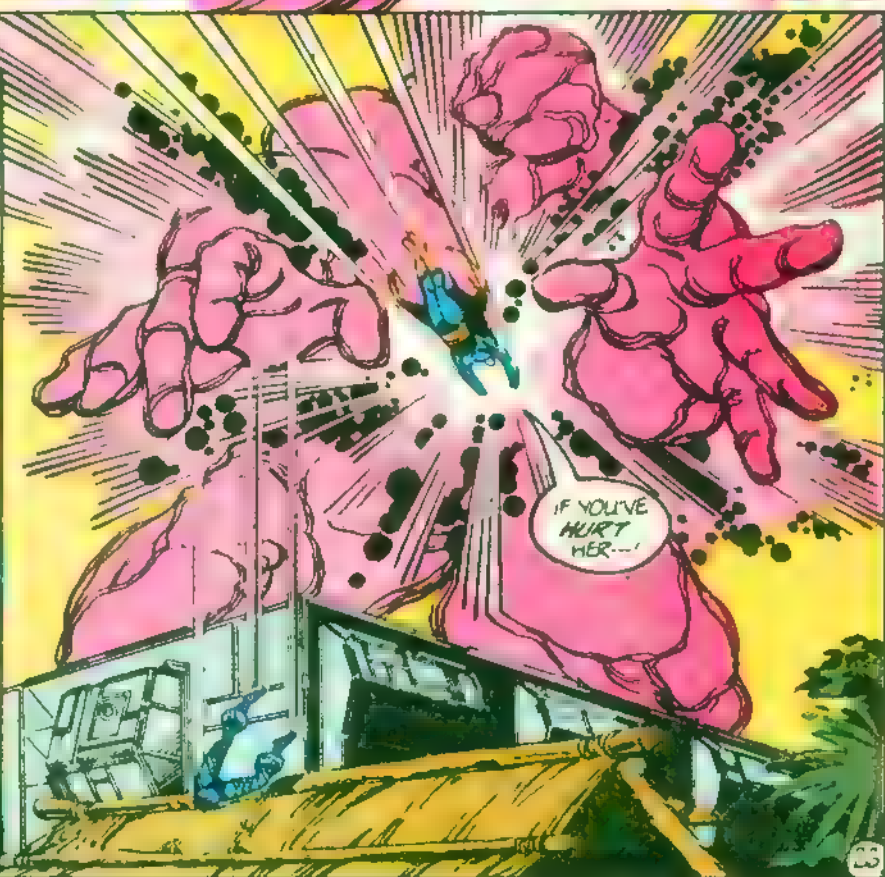


CAN'T--BREATH--
AGGGHHH--!!



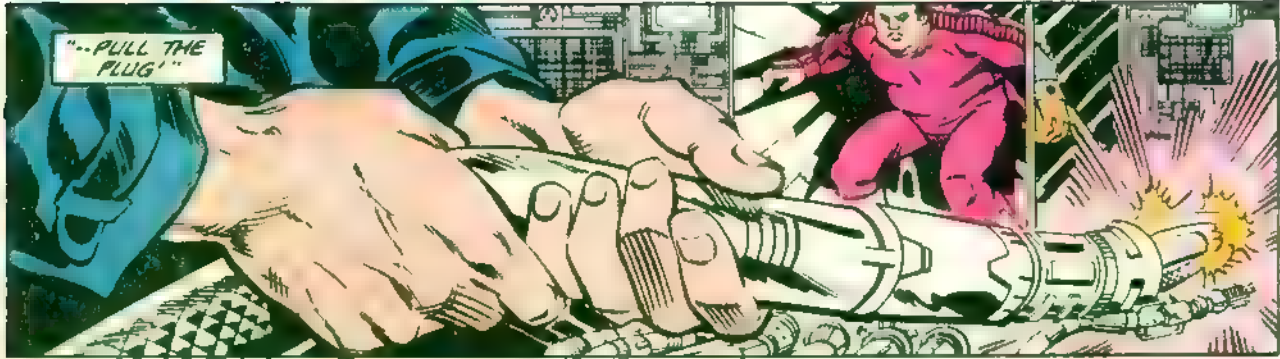
THE CREATURE LEFT AN ENERGY TRAIL WIDER THAN A FOUR LANE INTERSTATE--AND IT ENDS RIGHT--

NO!



IF YOU'VE HURT HER--!!





"...PULL THE PLUG!"



WORKS EVERY TIME



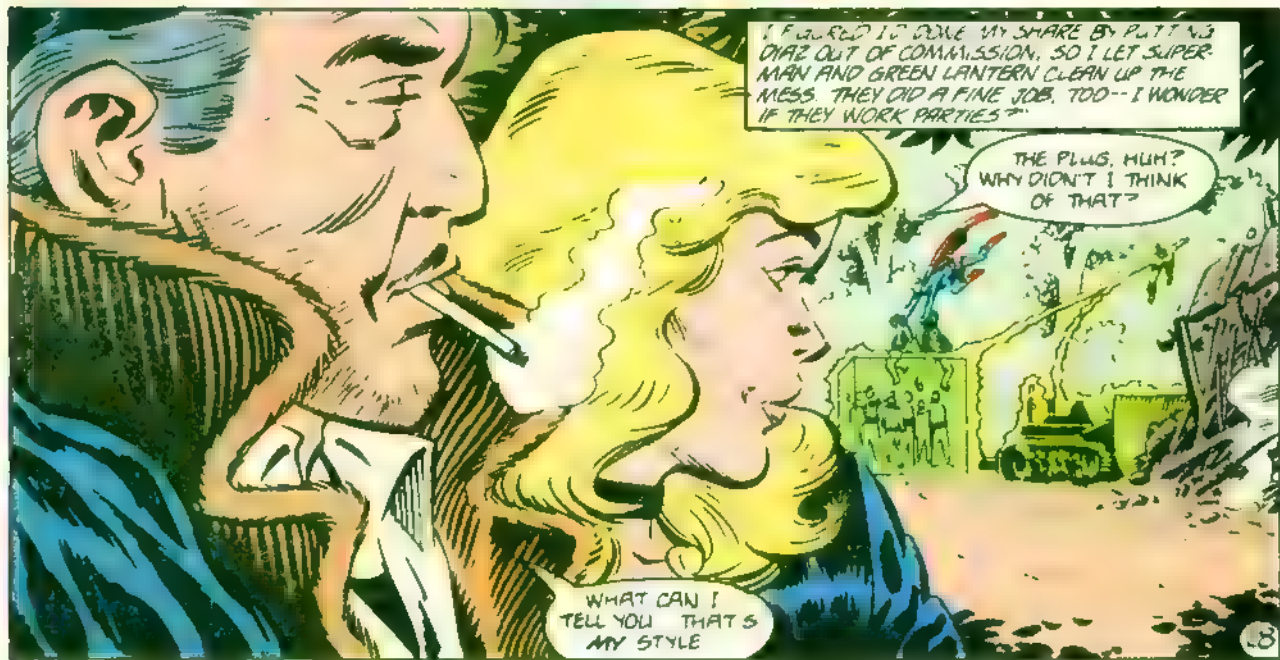
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF, OLD MAN! I'LL--



WHACK!

FOR PETE'S SAKE - WHY DON'T YOU SHUT THE HELL UP?



I FIGURED I'D DONE MY SHARE BY PUTTING HIM OUT OF COMMISSION. SO I LET SUPER-MAN AND GREEN LANTERN CLEAN UP THE MESS. THEY DID A FINE JOB, TOO-- I WONDER IF THEY WORK PARTIES?

THE PLUG, HUM? WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?

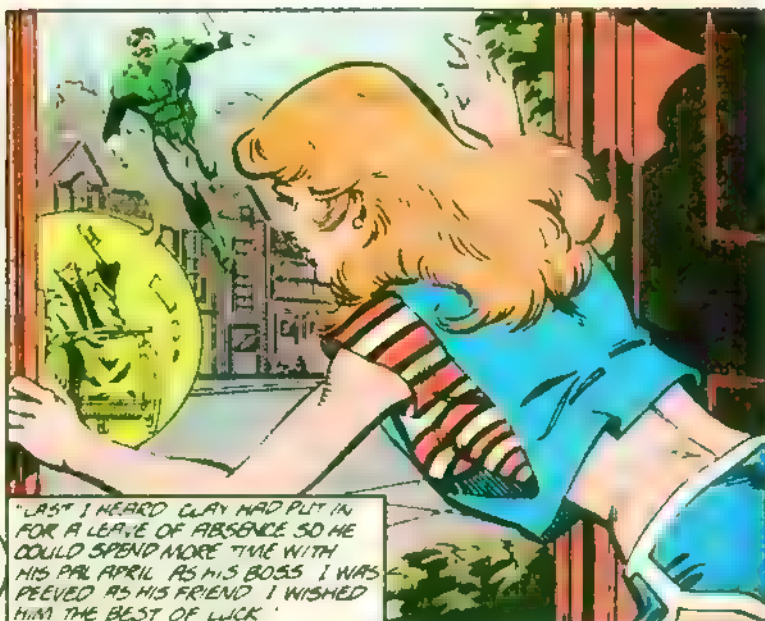
WHAT CAN I TELL YOU THAT'S MY STYLE

SUSAN AND I BOOKED PASSAGE ON A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT TO THE STATES WHILE LANTERN AND BLACK CANARY TOOK CLAY HOME VIA 'GREEN' RAIL

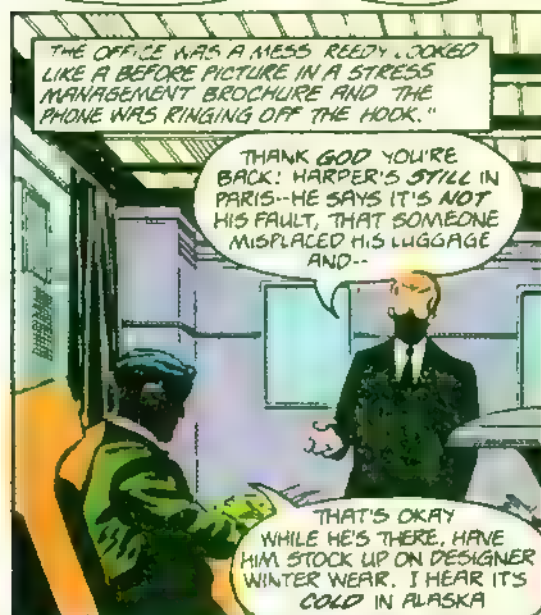


I WAS WONDERING MR CHAN ANY CHANCE OF US GETTING HAZARD PAY FOR ALL THIS?

FOR WHAT? WATCHING ME DRINK? GET SERIOUS, SULLIVAN



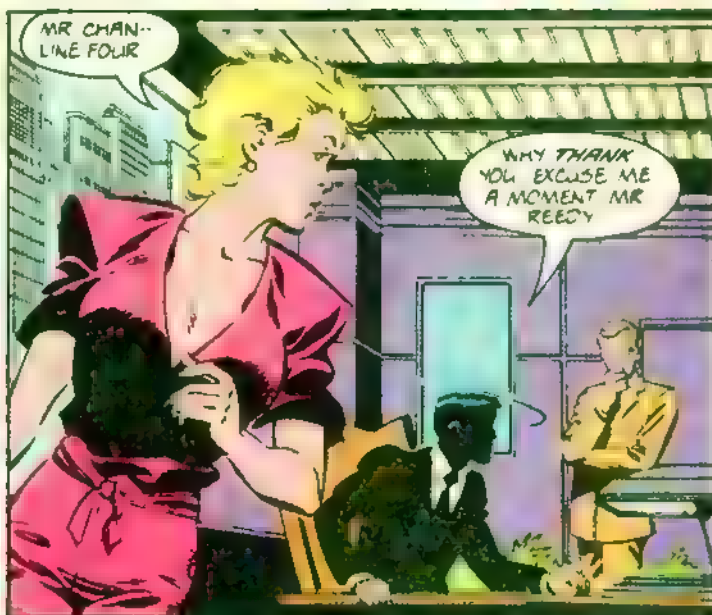
"LAST I HEARD CLAY HAD PUT IN FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE SO HE COULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH HIS PAL APRIL. AS HIS BOSS I WAS PEEVED AS HIS FRIEND I WISHED HIM THE BEST OF LUCK."



THE OFFICE WAS A MESS REEDY LOOKED LIKE A BEFORE PICTURE IN A STRESS MANAGEMENT BROCHURE AND THE PHONE WAS RINGING OFF THE HOOK.

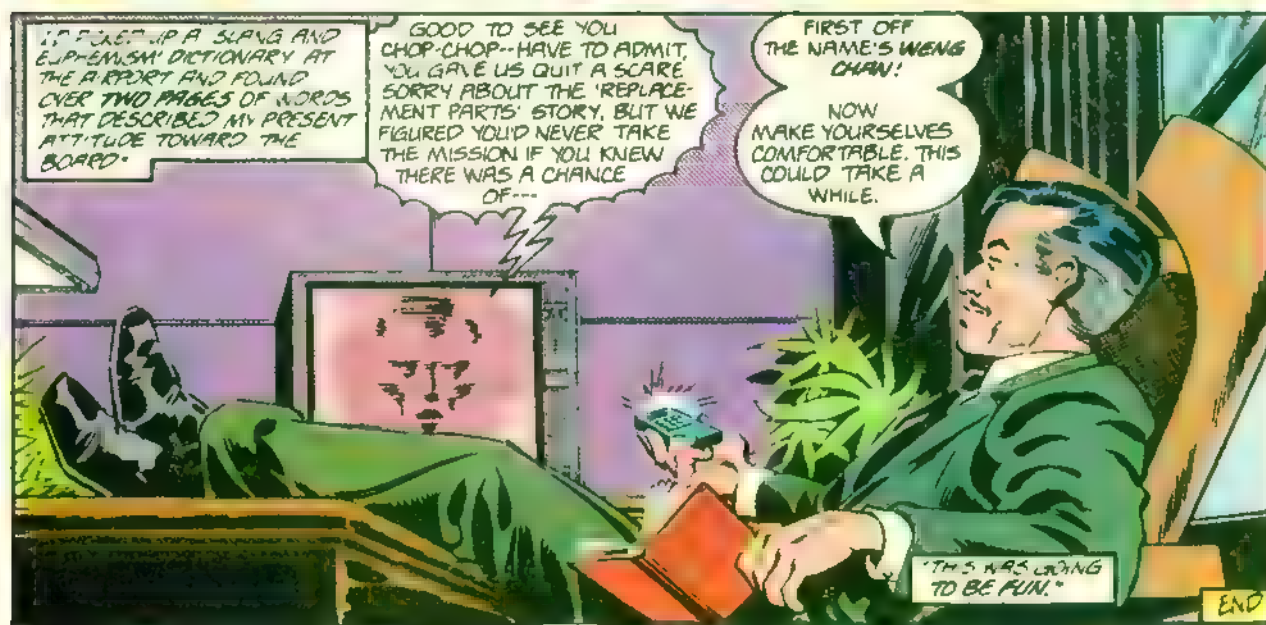
THANK GOD YOU'RE BACK! HARPER'S STILL IN PARIS--HE SAYS IT'S NOT HIS FAULT, THAT SOMEONE MISPLACED HIS LUGGAGE AND--

THAT'S OKAY WHILE HE'S THERE, HAVE HIM STOCK UP ON DESIGNER WINTER WEAR. I HEAR IT'S COLD IN ALASKA



MR CHAN-- LINE FOUR

WHY THANK YOU EXCUSE ME A MOMENT MR REEDY



I PICKED UP A SLANG AND EUPHEMISM DICTIONARY AT THE AIRPORT AND FOUND OVER TWO PAGES OF WORDS THAT DESCRIBED MY PRESENT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BOARD.

GOOD TO SEE YOU CHOP-CHOP--HAVE TO ADMIT YOU GAVE US QUITE A SCARE SORRY ABOUT THE 'REPLACEMENT PARTS' STORY, BUT WE FIGURED YOU'D NEVER TAKE THE MISSION IF YOU KNEW THERE WAS A CHANCE OF---

FIRST OFF THE NAME'S WENG CHAN!

NOW MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE. THIS COULD TAKE A WHILE.

"THIS WAS GOING TO BE FUN."

END

ACTION

COMICS WEEKLY

DC COMICS INC.

666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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Dear Mike and Brian

First of all, let me say that I disagree with David Deaton's view of "mysterious" and "supernatural" heroes. In all the stories involving Deadman, Spectre, Dr. Fate, and the Phantom Stranger that I've read, never have I had the idea that the scripter is endorsing the viewpoints of the cults or demons represented therein. If the scripter is being objective, and if the supernatural is given a chance to speak for itself, it may appear that way, but the four Phantom Stranger stories we've seen thus far in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY have presented demons, channelers, and Satan in a pretty negative light.

For something truly offensive, the Sons of Valhalla fit the bill nicely, as their credo conflicts with the tenet behind all religions: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." So consider this a vote for presenting "one person's heresy" as well as "one person's religion" in this title.

Whew! With that out of the way, a day ahead of schedule, here's my scorecard for THE GREAT ACTION COMICS WEEKLY POLL.

The Secret Six—Robb Tanner has a point about this: the new team should have had some exposure elsewhere before beginning its career as an eight-page weekly feature, with an issue or two devoted to how each member acquired the handicap that attracted Mockingbird. Such stories were a long time in coming, but "The Sound of a Silent Heart" suggests that they'll be worth it. I saw what lay behind the pushy, obnoxious Tony Mantagna and I was moved to see a man who wouldn't make love to Shelley and wouldn't enjoy living in San Francisco in 1988 as much as he would have the year before, when his lover was still alive. With the recent gang story in GREEN ARROW and the depiction of Mitch Sekofsky in SUICIDE SQUAD #19, you're doing a good job in depicting gays as real people. Tony may turn out to be the best of the bunch.

Shazam!—Captain Marvel is only here as a shadow in Billy Batson's mind, but the story is so good that we don't mind. It's an unflinching look at a sick community and our only hope in a Marvel-less world is that there are more Sams than Jakes out there. The creation (or is that re-creation in the post CRISIS continuity?) of Captain Nazi is downright scary, although whether he can be the recurring foe he was during World War II is doubtful. (Can Roy and Dann timewarp him to 1942 and

plow him into Axis Amerika?)

Deadman—The Harvest Ball looked to be more fun than the Amoeba Hop and Madame Waxahachie was wearing a smile button (who watches the watchmen?) Vince Giarrano's pencils were very good, and Mike Baron writes some of the nuttiest, yet most successful scenes I've ever seen in comics. My favorite here was the ejection of Deadman and Madame W. from Wildwood.

Green Lantern—GL has been finding the eight-page format a little restrictive of late. "Faith" (the echo with a line in one of the last GLC issues—#220—comes to mind, as "faith in the light" permitted Hal to beat Smith, the Manhunter) was odd in that it shows the strip getting more intriguing without leading me to conclude that it's also getting better. Priest as an ex Green Lantern who apparently achieved Nirvana in the Corps was fine, although the possibility of Hal's one day becoming a power battery similar to an Oan at his peak should remain a possibility only. The late GL of the unknown space sector who apparently became a god (Man of Steel, pay attention!) was also good, but you've taken to giving a lengthy (for this title) blurb at the end of the last couple of installments and the succeeding chapters have not lived up to the hype. Get with it, James and Mark!

Black Canary—The DuBurke/Marcos art was more atmospheric than it was in "Bitter Fruit." It's lost some of its polish, but that may suit "Knock 'Em Dead" as it develops. As Wright did last time, she threw some plotlines at us—Rita at the shop; Macy's coming to Seattle, a message made of news paper/magazine scraps, Deborah, who yearned for the needle and settled for a cigarette—and left us dazzled, if not satisfied. Does Bob know his boss's secret? I'm rooting for Dinah, but I couldn't help noticing that she ranked sixth in the poll on #613. Come on, Bird Lady.

Superman—"Fedemry Express" was cute. The Consortium had spies everywhere. We're off to California. It's hard to know what else to say, except that Swan's and Anderson's art is excellent and Stern manages as a rule to keep us aware of the larger, more complicated universe of booklength Superman adventures.

Until next time, all the best.

Charles J. Sperling
37 15 Parsons Blvd., Apt. 4C
Flushing, NY 11354

I agree with you, Charles, that the darker supernatural elements have always been shown in a negative light and, for me anyway, there has always seemed to be more than the slightest hint that there was some sort of "divine" inspiration behind characters like the Stranger and the Spectre, but don't expect anyone who is on the other side of the issue to be comforted by that. Like the square peg in the round hole, ideas are pretty tough to squeeze into a closed mind.

You weren't alone in applauding the sensitive handling of the revelation of the Secret Six's gay member—witness the following:

.....

Dear Actioneers,

ACW #624 was swell. I nearly stood up and applauded at the last page of the Secret Six, where we learned Tony was gay. To the best of my knowledge, he is the first major character in a continuing series to be a homosexual. Maggie Sawyer in the Superman books is a lesbian, but she has been identified as such so subtly and airily that I can't grant her any significance. I suspect many readers don't even take the point.

In Tony there can now be no mistaking it. He is openly gay. This is a major breakthrough for mainstream comics and I commend you for it. I hope you're willing to follow through and give this the importance it deserves. To wit:

Let us see the stories deal frankly with the gay experience. How does Tony's preference affect his work? Has he lost friends to AIDS? Does he face much prejudice? Are any of the others in the Six uncomfortable with him? Don't back away. ACW has proved itself daring and adventurous. Having broached the subject, I expect you'll to explore it sensibly and completely. Don't let us down.

For similar reasons, Shazam! was my second favorite feature this week. We see racism dealt with all the time in other media, but rarely in comics. I'm grateful to Roy and Dann for escaping the cliché of setting this story in the South. In a day when KKK rallies in Georgia typically draw only a handful of Klansmen, but scores of journalists, it's unfair to keep stereotyping our region as the nation's breeding ground for racism. That title now seems to be held by the Northwest, where groups such as the Aryan Nation have homogenized entire counties. I'm glad that's starting to be recognized. I like this story. Roy

and Dann have a good sense of the format. I wouldn't mind seeing Shazam! become a staple in these pages

Deadman comes in third. This series is engaging, but I'm having trouble taking it seriously. Mike Baron seems to be writing tongue-in-cheek, which isn't really a great approach for Deadman. I'd like to see a much darker, more horrific tome. If Mike can't deliver this, get someone else to write it next time.

Green Lantern ranks fourth. What's this nonsense about "reprogramming" the ring to work in a different space-sector? It makes sense as far as navigation goes, but there's no good reason why it shouldn't function normally in other ways. Physics is physics, after all, and a rock composed of element "A" halfway across the universe should still act like a rock of element "A" in our own solar system. How can a difference be so profound that GL can't make head or tail of it?

Black Canary is fifth. As usual, I have no clue as to what's going on.

Superman—tragic!—is sixth yet again. I've finally figured out what's wrong with this sad sack. It has the *form* of the old, old Sunday strips, but none of the *spirit*. The story is hackneyed and banal, the art uninspired. Why give us something we can read in any back issue from the 70s? If the goal really is to capture the flavor and excitement of the old serials, go all the way. Draw the characters in poses reminiscent of Joe Shuster and Wayne Boring. Give us plots involving Lost Empires and evil scientists. Let us actually read dialogue like, "This is a job for Superman!"

Better still, why don't you reprint actual strips from the Golden Age? I'd love to see them. I think others would, too.

Finally, I'm surprised Chris Brown was the only correspondent who seemed upset by Catwoman's murder of the two security guards. This was indeed a severe mismanagement of the character, and is not something I want to see again.

Glenn V. Morrison
4290 Camaron Way
Lithonia, GA 30058

We try to handle subjects like Tony's homosexuality in a serious and sensitive manner and, as such, have to be careful when considering where we take our characters—there's a fine line between exploration and exploitation. Your questions and story points are certainly worth examining, though. Thanks.

.....

Dear ACW,

So anyway, here we go with the list for #624.

Deadman—Good ol' Boston is back on top this week with the level of story being so consistently high. Other features could take a hint here.

Green Lantern—You've actually got a three-way tie for second place this week. But I've gone ahead and ranked these three strips to make it easier on your tabulations. I'll rank this one as the

highest of the three because of Hal's self-revelations (even though he appears unable to cope with them) and the recitation of the Lord's Prayer on page 7. I always felt in my heart that in moments of panic and confusion the GL Oath held more significance than just some rhetoric to keep the Lantern busy while his ring charged. It appears now I may be right, but we may never find out in what way.

Secret Six—I'll put this one next after GL just on Tony's being gay alone. What a great twist! And he covered so beautifully, not wanting to hurt Shelley, yet feeling the truth might do more damage. Great sub-plot, Marty.

Shazam!—I knew Roy and Dann would come through for me! This is more like it. It pains me to have to rank it fourth, but take consolation in the fact that there's less than a half point separating second from fourth (kind of like the Olympics).

Black Canary—I hope we're not in for more of the same kind of story as last time. Seeing Dinah in her costume this time was just enough to keep her out of the cellar.

Superman—I'm sorry to say, it was just one of those dull set-ups again. Supes is just a victim of this format.

Well, everybody else has been playing backseat editor, coming up with new and different anthology titles for you to try. Now it's my turn. So ... for male libidos everywhere, I would like to suggest the introduction of...

CHEESECAKE WEEKLY

Regular features, Dream Girl and Phantom Lady (1940s version).

Rotating features, Starfire, Green Flame, Ice Maiden, Black Canary (1940s version), Halo (revived), Princess Diana and all of her Amazon sisters, and Catherine Grant hosting *Lifestyles of the Super and Sexy*.

John Q. Gerdes, Esq.
P.O. Box 343
Collinsville, IL 62234

J.Q., my man, you just gotta get out into the real world a little more often. We do have plans for Phantom Lady.

.....

Dear Action,

I am sorry to hear of the demise of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY. I enjoyed both the weekly schedule and the anthology format. I even continued to support the book when I could have saved money by waiting two weeks and picking it up in the quarter box. Its replacement, however, a monthly Superman book by George Perez, sounds exciting.

I am not sure why ACW did not make it, though. I think mostly it was the price. The monthly total for the book equaled the cost of about eight regular books. I enjoyed all the stories, but for someone who only liked one or two, this was a lot of money. I also noticed a drop in quality from most monthly titles. One or two good features mixed in with four or five mediocre ones was not enough to carry the book. But I think price was the overall reason. I even think the decrease in

popularity of the New Teen Titans is due not to content but to the \$1.75 price tag.

I hope you do not give up on the anthology format, though. I think it is a great way to offer finite stories without having endless mini-series. Maybe if you kept it to two or three stories and lowered the frequency you might have a success. Grouping features of similar genres could also be a successful concept. How about monthly superhero, adventure, sword and sorcery, war, and science fiction comics?

The sword and sorcery comic could feature Warlord, Arion and the Lords of the Ultra-Realm.

The adventure comic could have the Secret Six, the Phantom, and maybe Rip Hunter or the Challengers.

The war book could run Sgt. Rock, Blackhawk, and maybe a rotating feature.

All in all, I think it was a great concept and am sorry it didn't make it. Who knows, maybe the problem was that you didn't feature a mutant on every cover. Please continue to explore new ideas and formats and pave the way for the future.

Thank you.

John J. Gettel
5848 Smithfield Ave.
East Lansing, MI 48823

A point worth making, John, is that ACW is not being discontinued due to sales—its sales were fine—but rather to the massive strain put on the creative, production, and printing staffs by the size and frequency of the book. The fact that George was waiting in the wings made the decision much easier, though.

And, fear not: while the final form remains undecided, the anthology comic will live on.

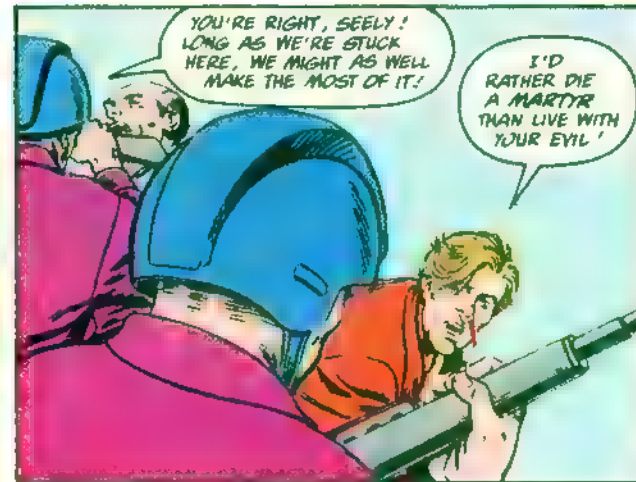
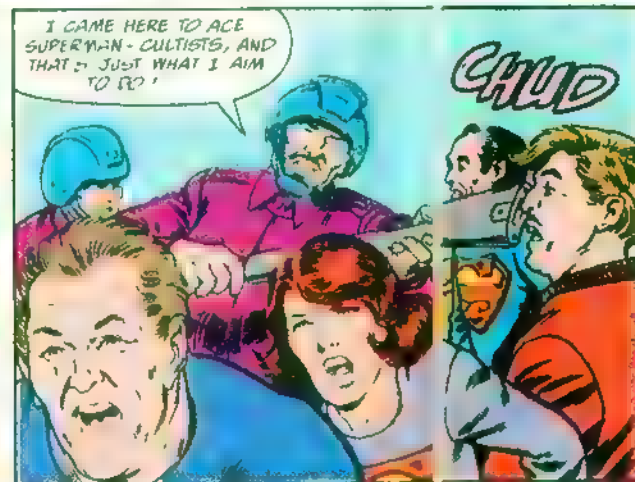
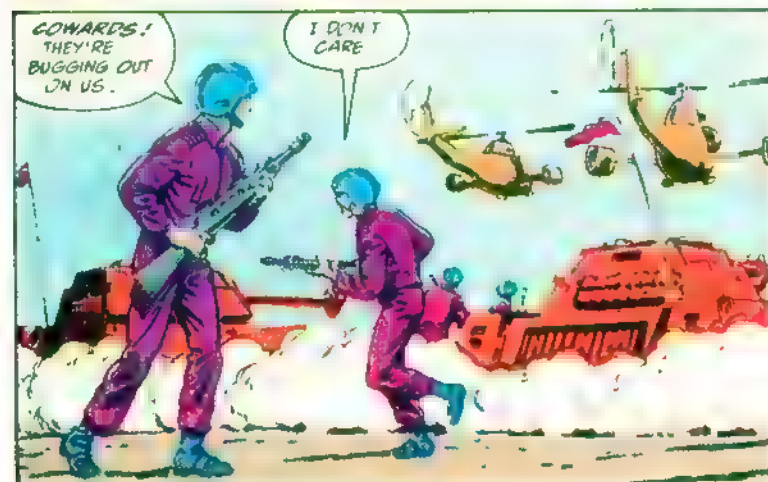
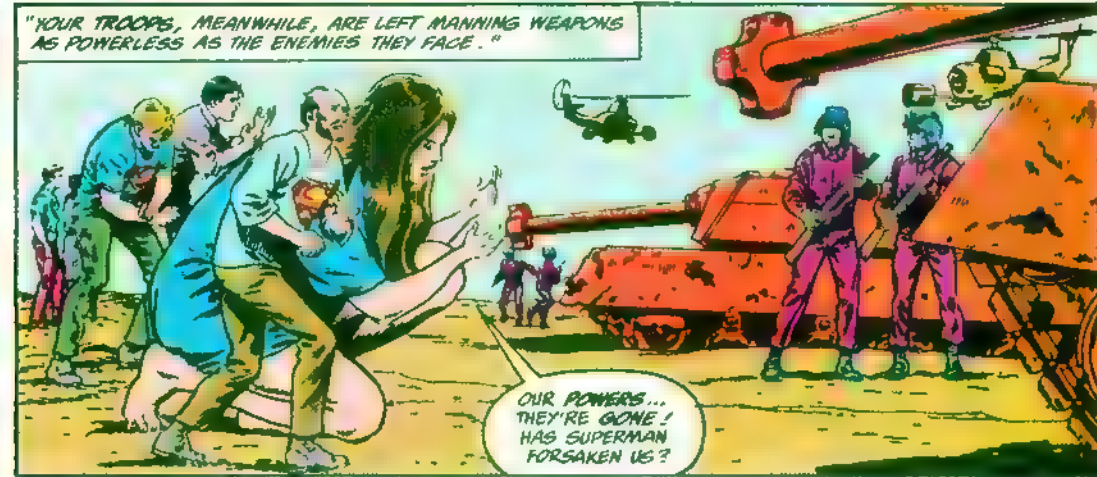
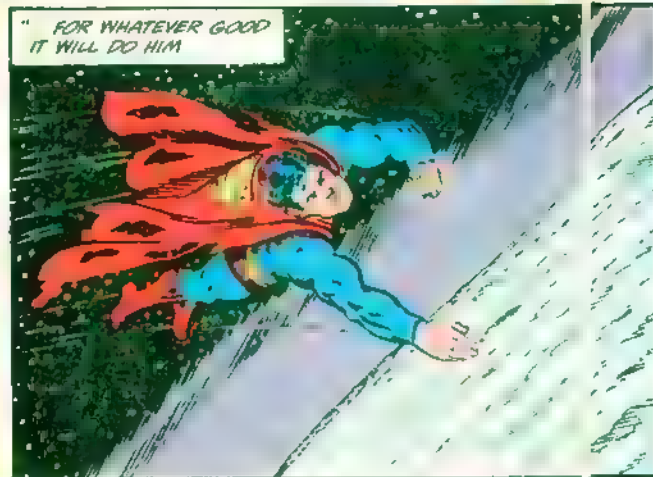
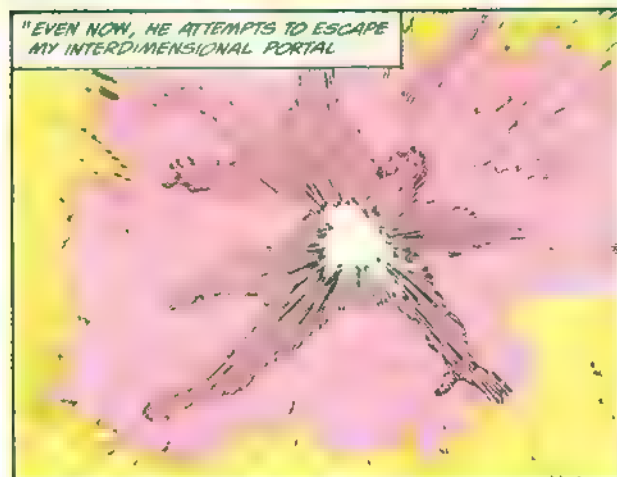
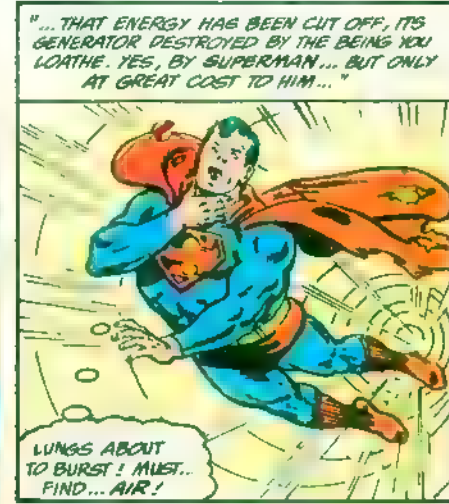
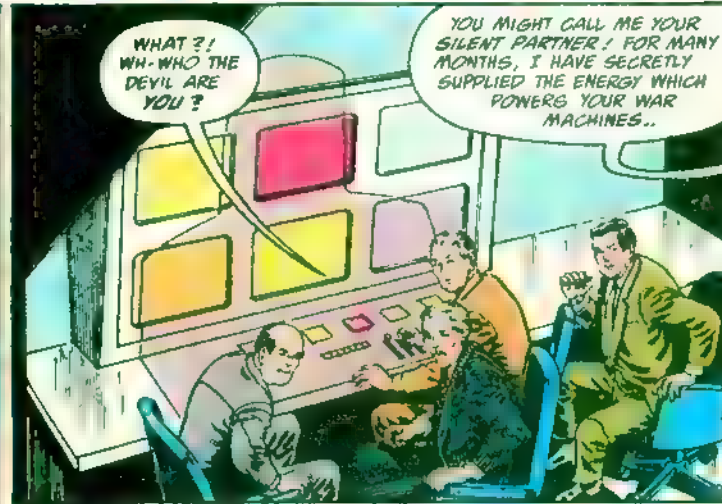
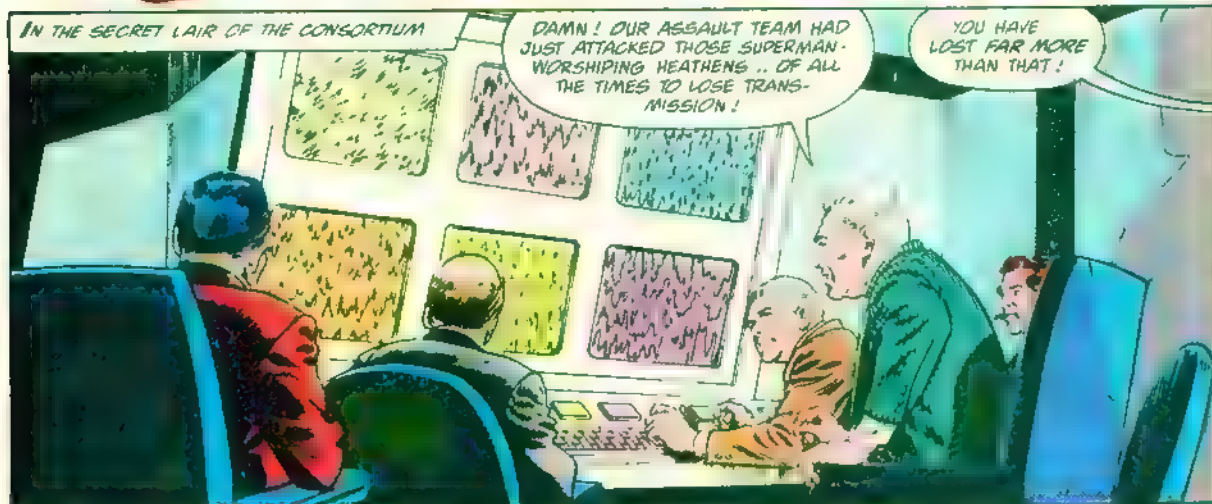
.....

Well, once again, we're out of time and outta here. Join us next week for the exciting unveiling of three all-new series—The Demon, by Alan Grant, Mark Paccella, and Bill Wray; Phantom Lady by Len Strazewski, Chuck Austen, and Garry Martin, and Speedy by Mark Verheiden and Louis Williams. Also, Superman, Phantom Stranger, and Wild Dog. All this and a great cover by Dick Giordano!

See you then.

—Brian Augustyn





GREEN LANTERN

THE END

THIS IS GREEN
LANTERN.

HE POSSESSES A POWER
RING THAT MAKES HIM ONE
OF THE SINGLE MOST
POWERFUL MEN IN THE
UNIVERSE.

TWENTY SECONDS
AGO, THAT RING WAS
SHATTERED INTO A
THOUSAND FRAGMENTS.

GOT TO
MOVE!

MY
RING'S BEEN
DESTROYED...

...AND THE
DEADLIEST
MENACE I'VE
EVER FACED IS
RIGHT
BEHIND
ME!!

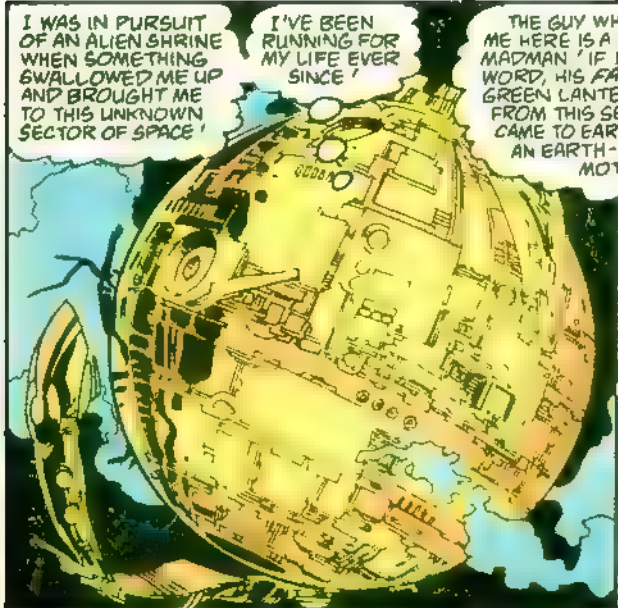
**JAMES E. M.D.
OWSLEY & BRIGHT**
SCRIPTS / PLOT / PENCILS

ROMEO TAVSHAL
INKS
ALBERT DE GUZMAN
LETTERS

JULIANA FERRITER
(PAGES 4)

AMORY WILLIAMS
(PP. 12, 58)

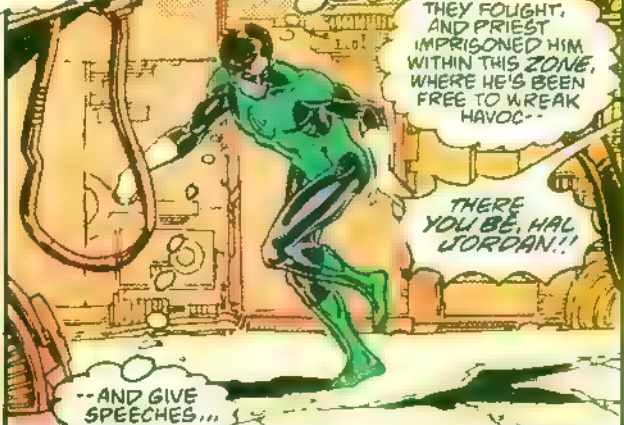
COLORS
DAN RASPLER
ASST. EDITOR
DENNY O'NEIL
EDITOR



I WAS IN PURSUIT OF AN ALIEN SHRINE WHEN SOMETHING SWALLOWED ME UP AND BROUGHT ME TO THIS UNKNOWN SECTOR OF SPACE!

I'VE BEEN RUNNING FOR MY LIFE EVER SINCE!

THE GUY WHO BROUGHT ME HERE IS A 300 YEAR-OLD MADMAN. IF I TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD, HIS FATHER WAS A GREEN LANTERN, ORIGINALLY FROM THIS SECTOR. HIS FATHER CAME TO EARTH AND MARRIED AN EARTH-WOMAN--HIS MOTHER

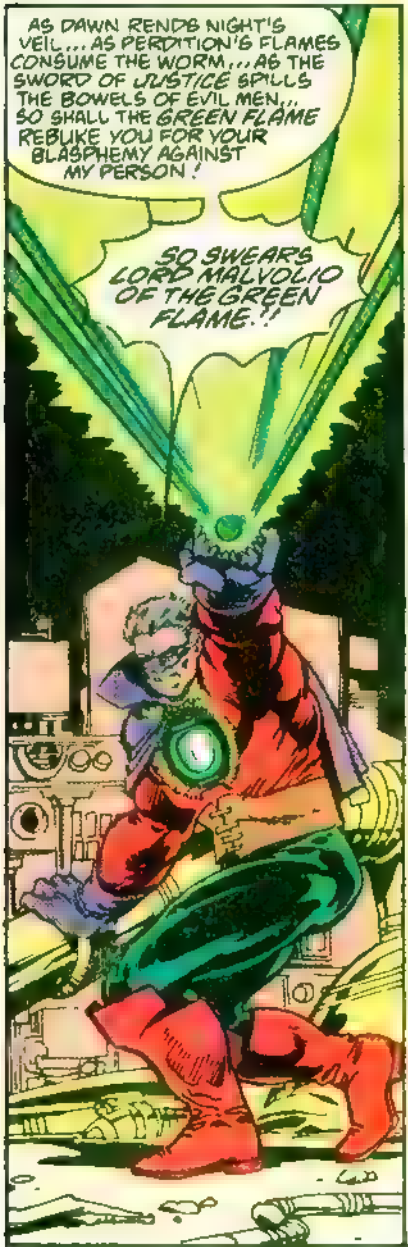


WHEN HE CAME OF AGE, THIS LUNATIC KILLED HIS FATHER HIS FATHER'S POWER RING AND IDENTITY. AT SOME POINT, HE CAME INTO CONFLICT WITH PRIEST, MY FRIEND AND SOMETIMES-MENTOR

THEY FOUGHT, AND PRIEST IMPRISONED HIM WITHIN THIS ZONE, WHERE HE'S BEEN FREE TO WREAK HAVOC--

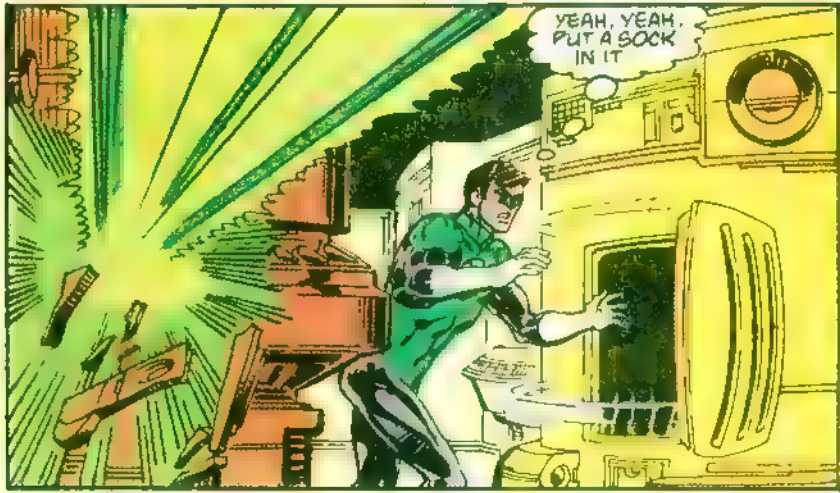
THERE YOU BE, HAL JORDAN!!

--AND GIVE SPEECHES...

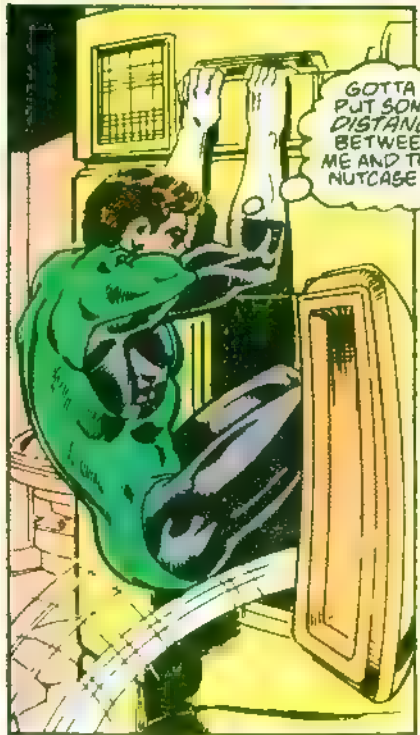


AS DAWN RENDS NIGHT'S VEIL... AS PERDITION'S FLAMES CONSUME THE WORM... AS THE SWORD OF JUSTICE SPILLS THE BOWELS OF EVIL MEN... SO SHALL THE GREEN FLAME REBUKE YOU FOR YOUR BLASPHEMY AGAINST MY PERSON!

SO SWEARS LORD MALVOLIO OF THE GREEN FLAME!!



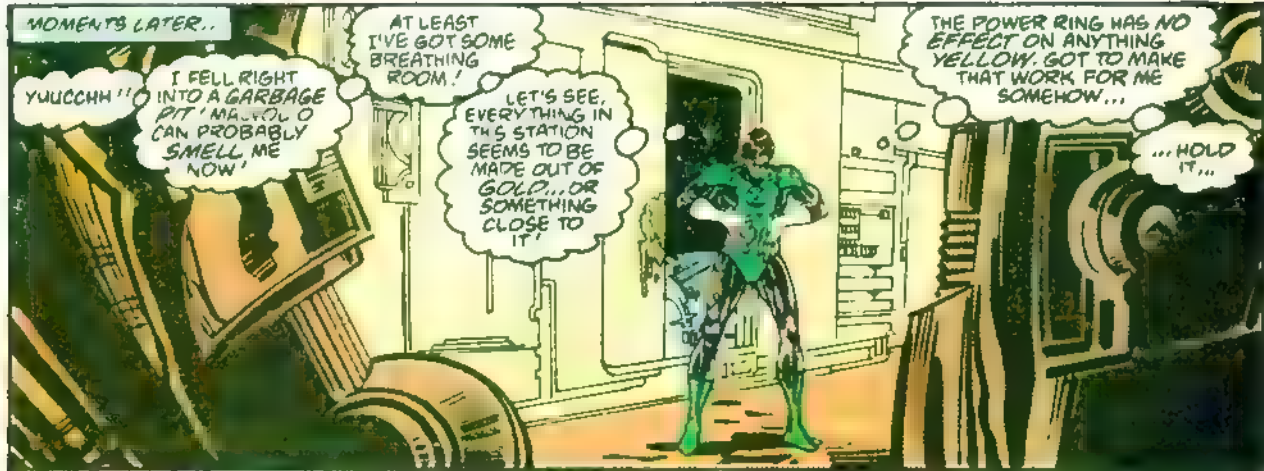
YEAH, YEAH. PUT A SOCK IN IT



GOTTA PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND THAT NUTCASE!



I'LL HEAD DEEPER INTO THIS SPACE STATION... HOPE THE ATMOSPHERE HOLDS OUT



MOMENTS LATER...

YUUCCHH!!

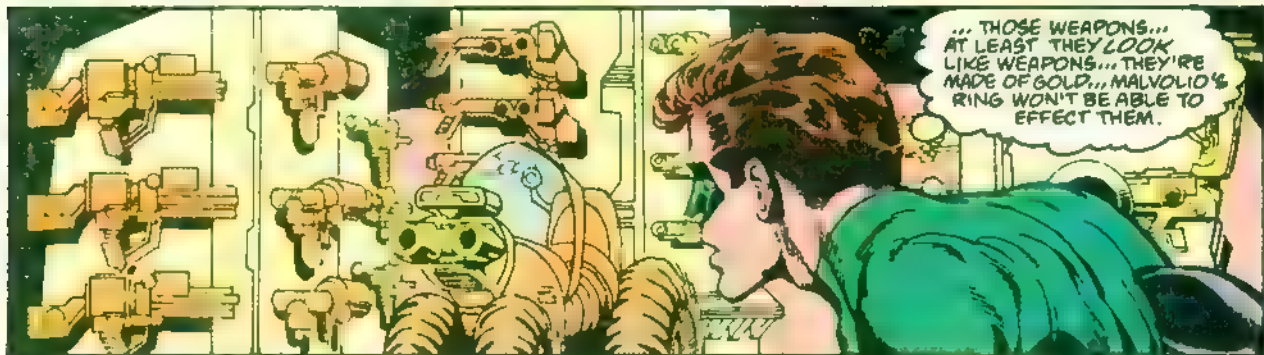
I FELL RIGHT INTO A GARBAGE PIT! MALVOLIO CAN PROBABLY SMELL ME NOW!

AT LEAST I'VE GOT SOME BREATHING ROOM!

LET'S SEE, EVERYTHING IN THIS STATION SEEMS TO BE MADE OUT OF GOLD...OR SOMETHING CLOSE TO IT!

THE POWER RING HAS NO EFFECT ON ANYTHING YELLOW. GOT TO MAKE THAT WORK FOR ME SOMEHOW...

...HOLD IT...



...THOSE WEAPONS... AT LEAST THEY LOOK LIKE WEAPONS... THEY'RE MADE OF GOLD... MALVOLIO'S RING WON'T BE ABLE TO EFFECT THEM.

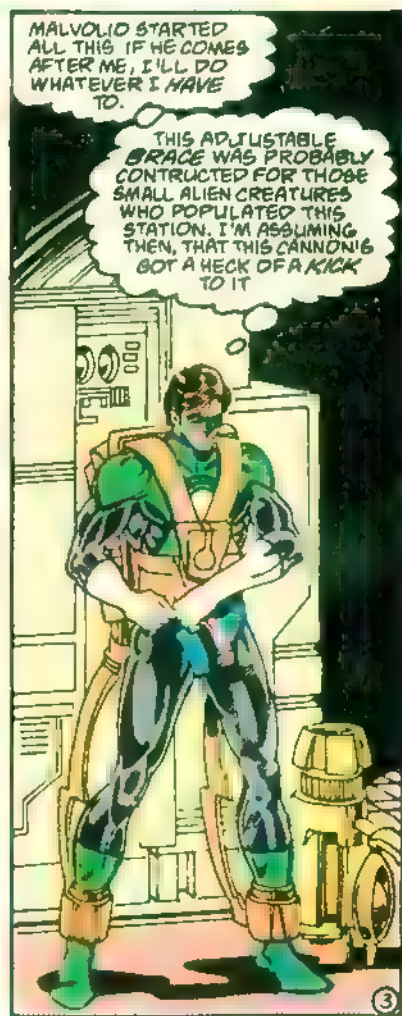


BETTER GO WITH THAT CANNON. MALVOLIO'S A REAL BIG GUY!

THING IS, I HAVE NO IDEA IF THAT BLASTER WILL DO ME ANY GOOD. IT MAY HAVE NO EFFECT ON MALVOLIO. THEN AGAIN...

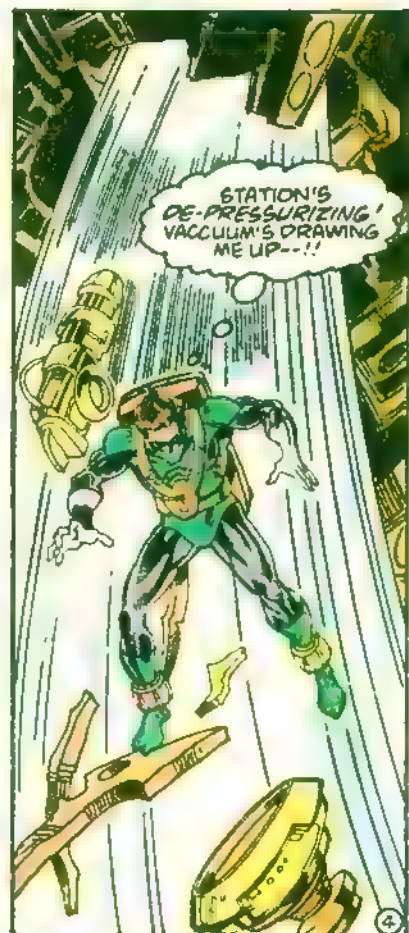
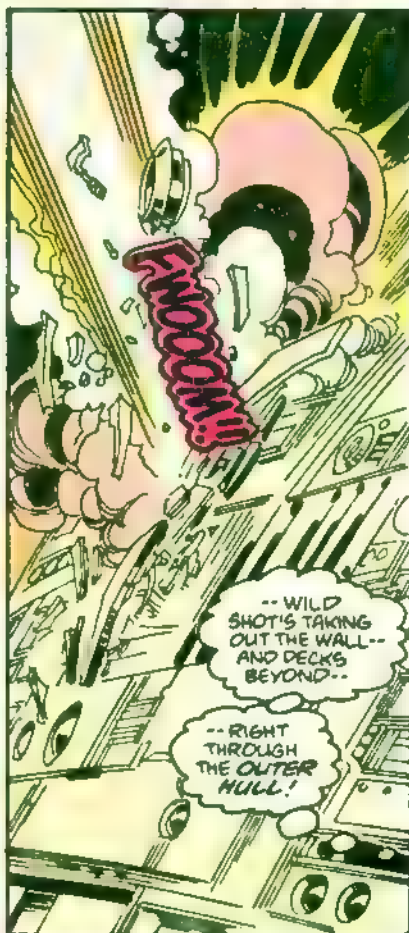
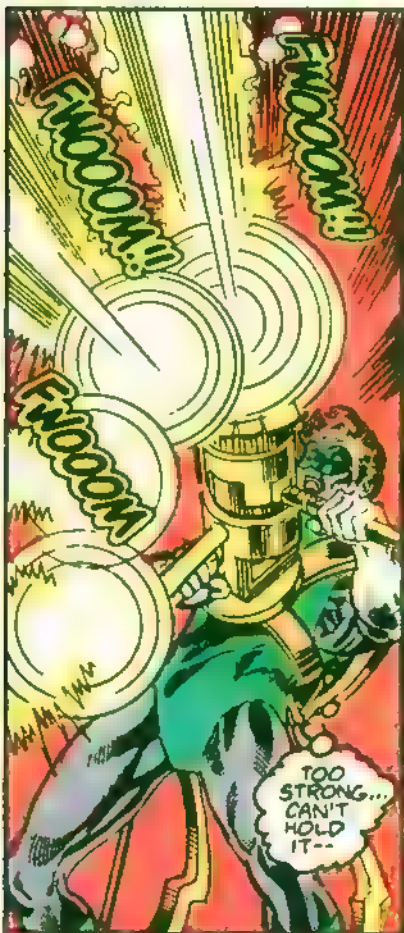
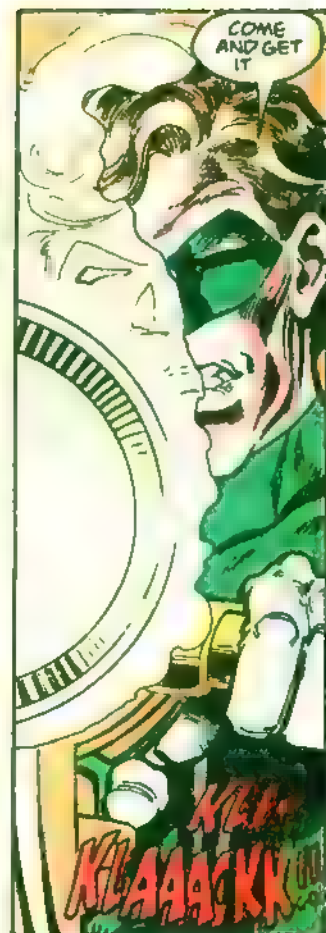


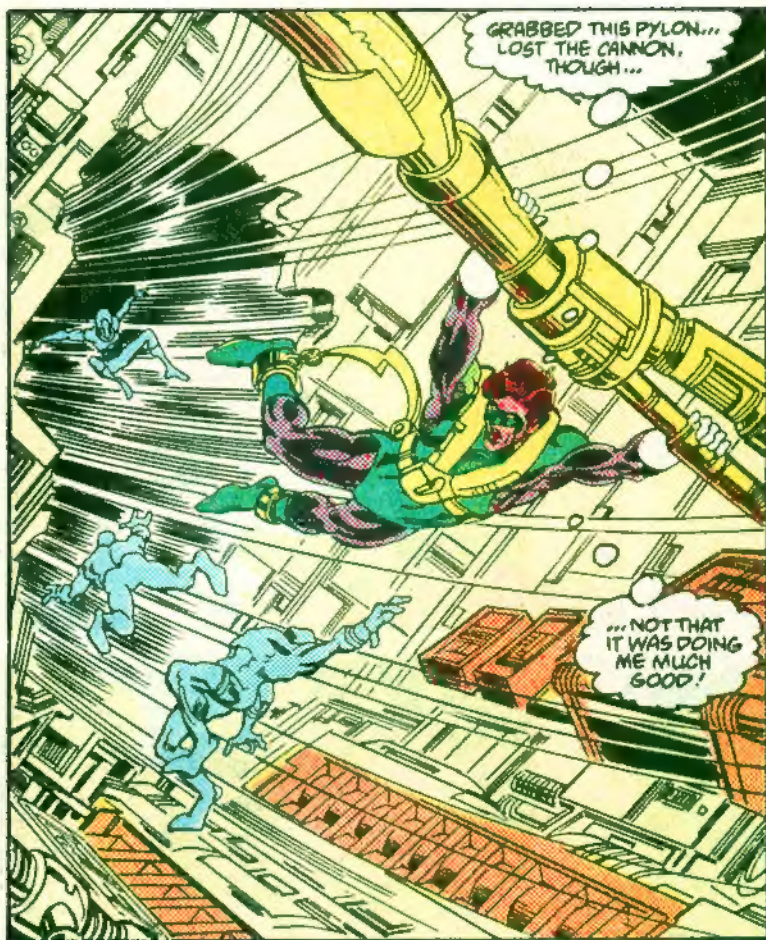
...IT COULD KILL HIM



MALVOLIO STARTED ALL THIS IF HE COMES AFTER ME, I'LL DO WHATEVER I HAVE TO.

THIS ADJUSTABLE BRACE WAS PROBABLY CONSTRUCTED FOR THOSE SMALL ALIEN CREATURES WHO POPULATED THIS STATION. I'M ASSUMING THEN, THAT THIS CANNON'S GOT A HECK OF A KICK TO IT





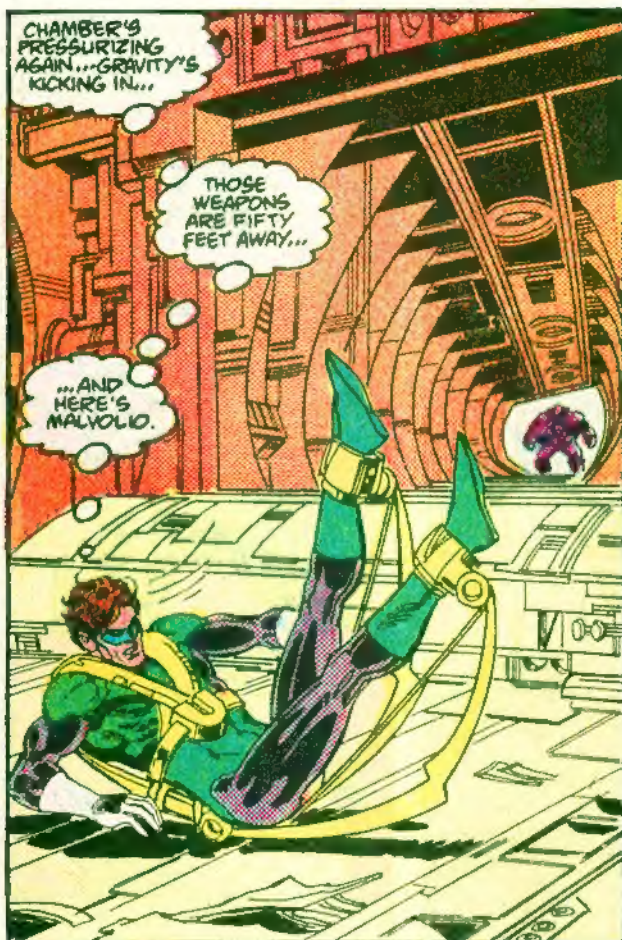
GRABBED THIS PYLON...
LOST THE CANNON,
THOUGH...

...NOT THAT
IT WAS DOING
ME MUCH
GOOD!



YOU'LL NOT
ESCAPE ME
THAT EASILY,
JORDAN!!

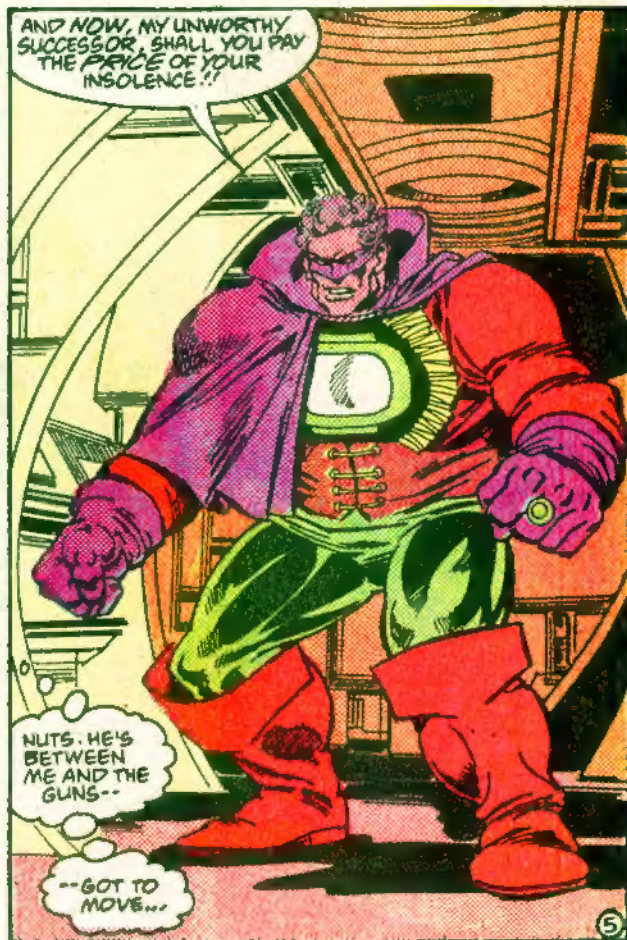
MALVOLIO'S
USING A LARGE
CHUNK OF DEBRIS
TO SEAL UP THE
WALL...



CHAMBER'S
PRESSURIZING
AGAIN...GRAVITY'S
KICKING IN...

THOSE
WEAPONS
ARE FIFTY
FEET AWAY...

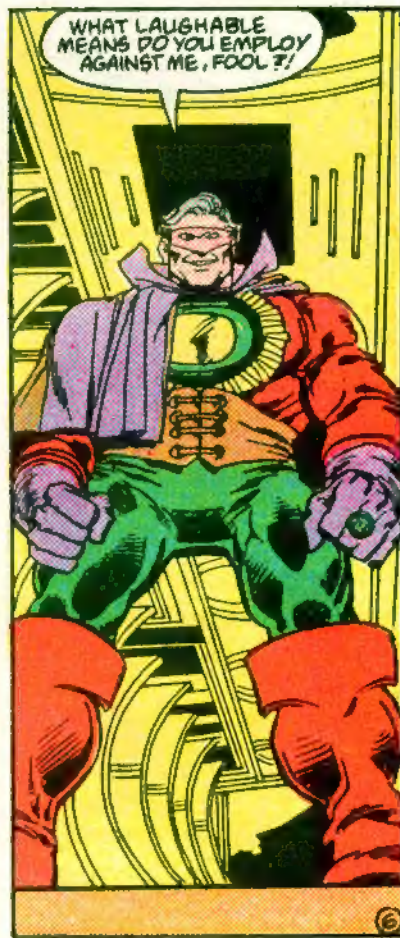
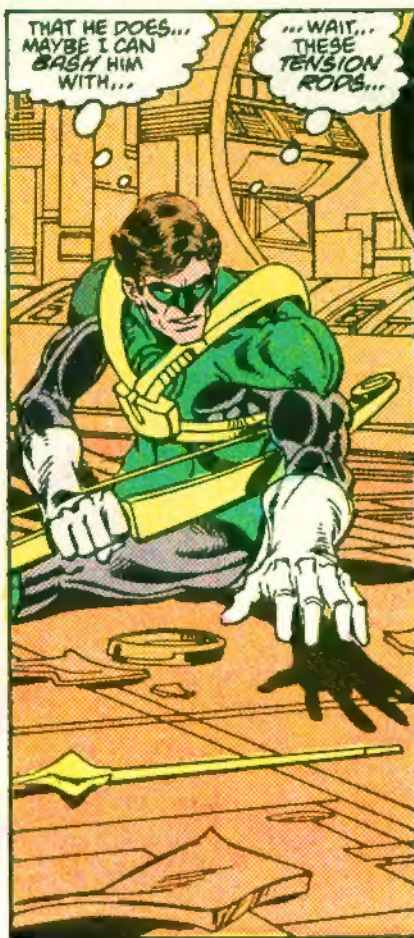
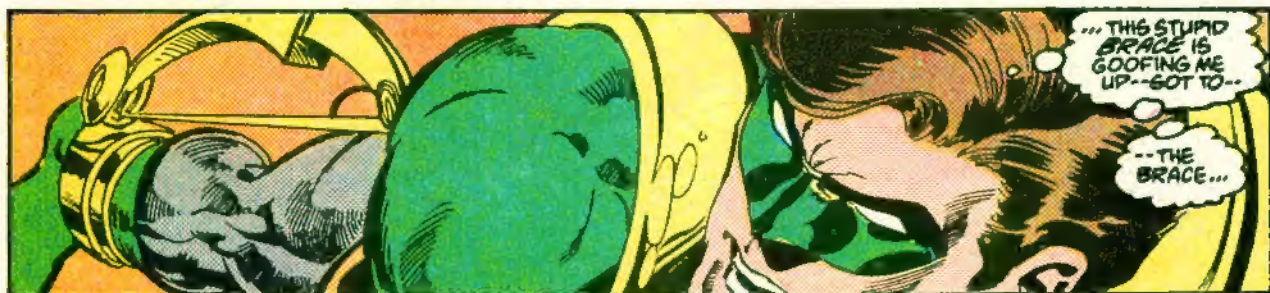
...AND
HERE'S
MALVOLIO.

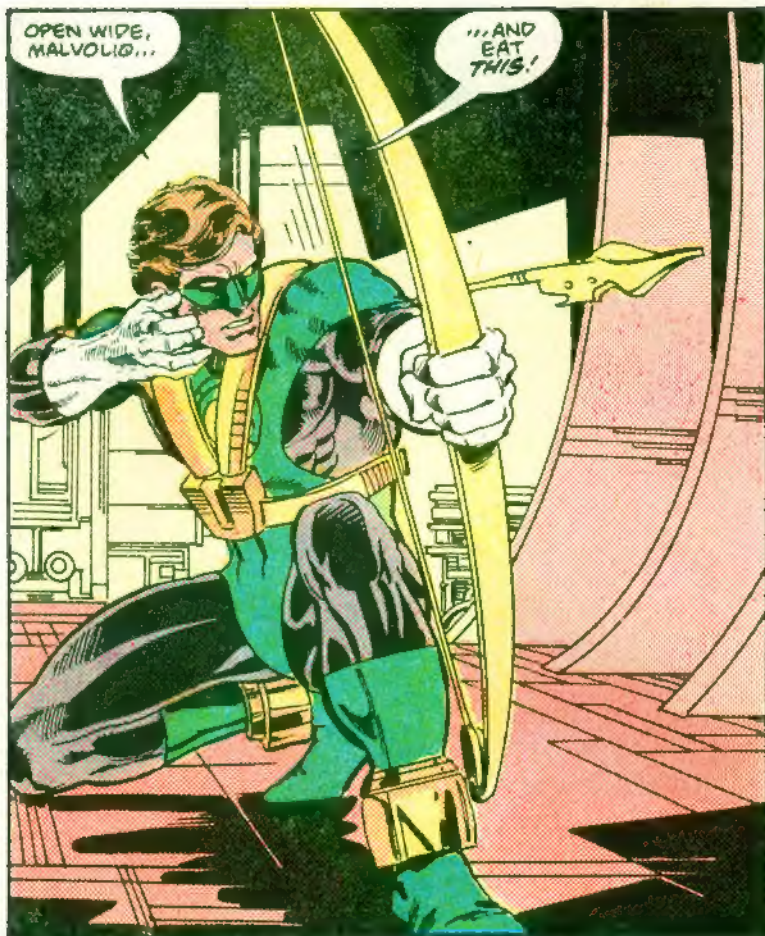


AND NOW, MY UNWORTHY
SUCCESSOR, SHALL YOU PAY
THE PRICE OF YOUR
INSOLENCE?!

NUTS. HE'S
BETWEEN
ME AND THE
GUNS--

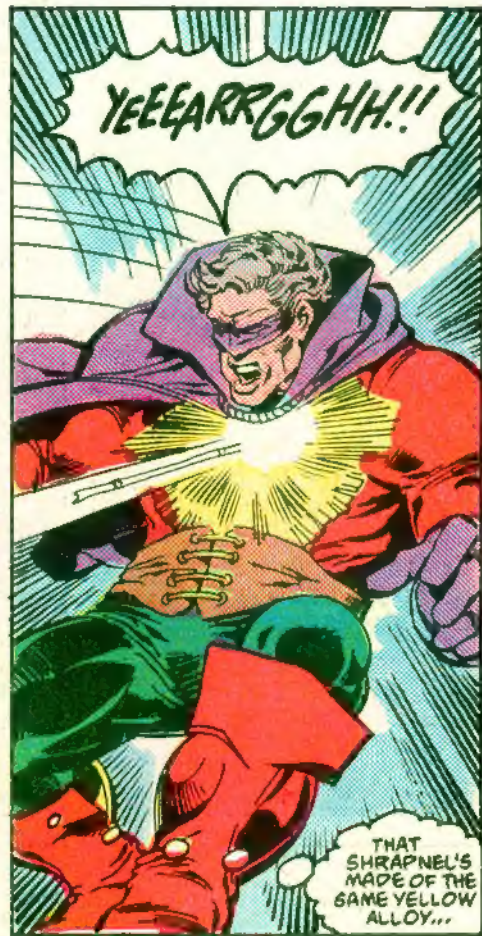
--GOT TO
MOVE--





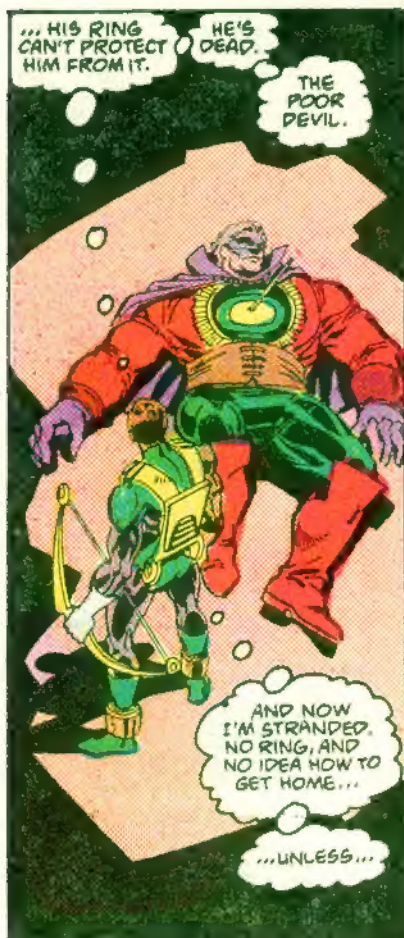
OPEN WIDE, MALVOLIO...

...AND EAT THIS!



YEEARRGGHH!!

THAT SHRAPNEL'S MADE OF THE SAME YELLOW ALLOY...



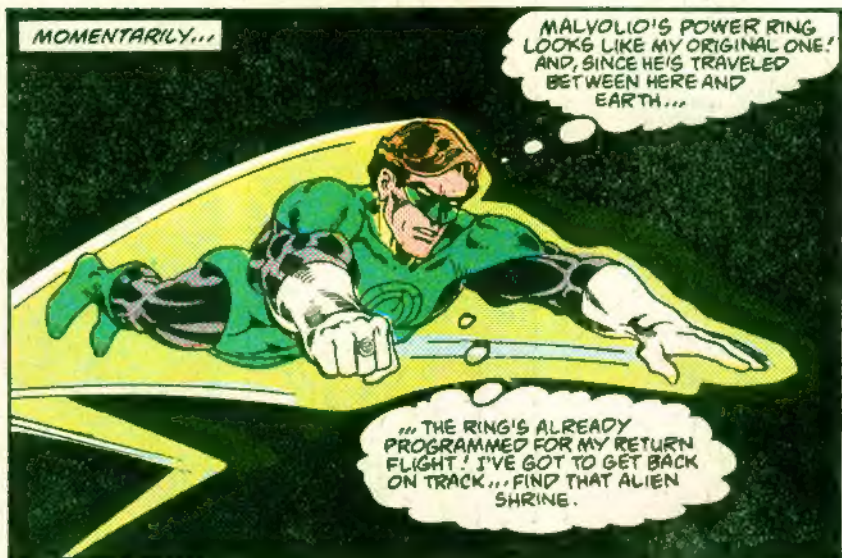
...HIS RING CAN'T PROTECT HIM FROM IT.

HE'S DEAD.

THE POOR DEVIL.

AND NOW I'M STRANDED. NO RING, AND NO IDEA HOW TO GET HOME...

...UNLESS...



MOMENTARILY...

MALVOLIO'S POWER RING LOOKS LIKE MY ORIGINAL ONE! AND, SINCE HE'S TRAVELED BETWEEN HERE AND EARTH...

...THE RING'S ALREADY PROGRAMMED FOR MY RETURN FLIGHT! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK ON TRACK... FIND THAT ALIEN SHRINE.



WHEN I THINK OF MALVOLIO LYING THERE, I FEEL SICK... EMPTY.



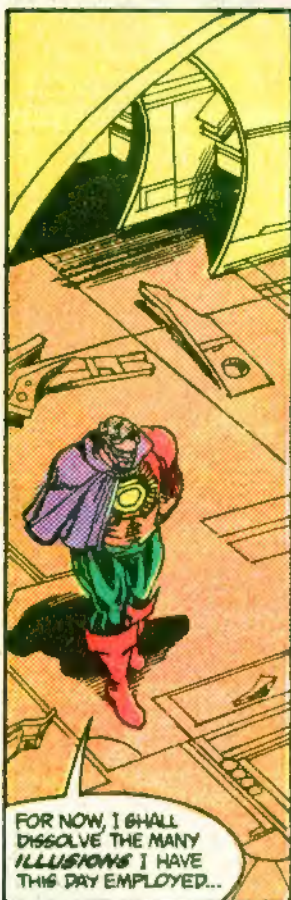
GONE.

EXCELLENT.

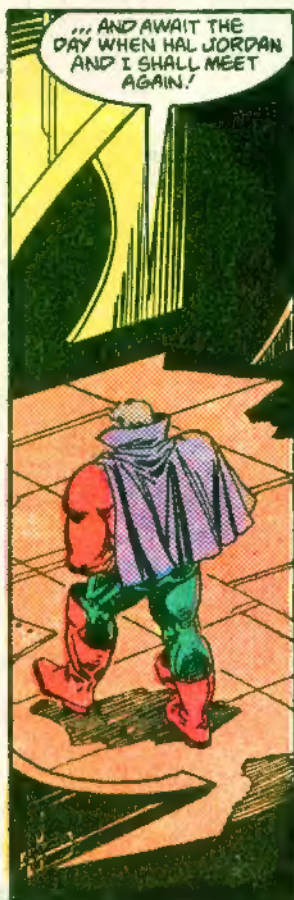


EVERYTHING HAS GONE
ACCORDING TO MY PLAN. HAL
JORDAN, CONFIDANTE OF
MINE ETERNAL ENEMY, PRIEST,
NOW SAILS THROUGH THE
COSMOS WEARING MY
POWER RING.

AND SOON SHALL THE
DAY COME THAT HE SHALL
SERVE ME IN MY WAR AGAINST
BOTH PRIEST AND THE BLUE
SKINNED ELDER GOD HE
SERVES!



FOR NOW, I SHALL
DISSOLVE THE MANY
ILLUSIONS I HAVE
THIS DAY EMPLOYED...



... AND AWAIT THE
DAY WHEN HAL JORDAN
AND I SHALL MEET
AGAIN!



NEXT: DON'T MISS THE ORIGIN OF GREEN LANTERN, NOW ON SALE IN SECRET ORIGINS # 36!

AND LOOK OUT FOR GL IN HIS OWN MONTHLY TITLE, DEBUTING
IN TIME TO CELEBRATE GL'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY!